

Civics Test Question Bank

American Government

A: Principles of American Democracy

Q: What is the supreme law of the land?

A: The Constitution

Q: What does the Constitution do?

A: Sets up the government;

A: Defines the government; or

A: Protects basic rights of Americans

Q: The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution.

What are these words?

A: We the people

Q: What is an amendment?

A: A change (to the Constitution);
or

A: An addition (to the Constitution)

Q: What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

A: The Bill of Rights

Q: What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?

A: Speech;

A: Religion;

A: Assembly;

A: Press; or

A: Petition the government

Q: How many amendments does the Constitution have?

A: Twenty-seven (27)

Q: What did the Declaration of Independence do?

A: Announced our independence (from Great Britain);

A: Declared our independence (from great Britain); or

A: Said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)

Q: What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

A: Life;

A: Liberty; and

A: Pursuit of happiness

Q: What is freedom of religion?

A: You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion

Q: What is the economic system in the United States?

A: Capitalist economy; or

A: Market economy

Q: What is the “rule of law”?

A: Everyone must follow the law;

A: Leaders must obey the law;

A: Government must obey the law;
or

A: No one is above the law

B: System of Government

Q: Name one branch or part of the government

A: Congress;

A: Legislative;

A: President;

A: Executive;

A: The courts; or

A: Judicial

Q: What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

A: Checks and balances; pr

A: Separation of powers

Q: Who is in charge of the executive branch?

A: The President

Q: Who makes federal laws?

A: Congress;

A: Senate and House (of representatives); or

A: (U.S. or national) legislature

Q: What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?

A: The Senate and the House (of representatives)

Q: How many U.S. Senators are there?

A: One hundred (100)

Q: We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?

A: Six (6)

Q: Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators now?

A: Answers will vary depending on state you reside in. Visit

<https://www.senate.gov/senators/>

Q: The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

A: Four hundred thirty-five (435)

Q: We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?

A: Two (2)

Q: Name your U.S. Representative.

A: Answers will vary. Visit

<https://www.house.gov/representatives>

Q: Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

A: All people of the state

Q: Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

A: Because of the state's population;

A: Because they have more people; or

A: Because some states have more people

Q: We elect a President for how many years?

A: Four (4)

Q: In what month do we vote for President?

A: November

Q: What is the name of the President of the United States now?

A: Joe Biden. Visit

<https://www.whitehouse.gov> in case of update.

Q: What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?

A: Kamala Harris. Visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov> in case of update.

Q: If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

A: The Vice President

Q: If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

A: The Speaker of the House

Q: Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?

A: The President

Q: Who signs bills to become laws?

A: The President

Q: Who vetoes bills?

A: The President

Q: What does the President's cabinet do?

A: Advises the President

Q: What are two Cabinet-level positions?

A: Secretary of Agriculture;

A: Secretary of Commerce;

A: Secretary of Defense;

A: Secretary of Education;

A: Secretary of Energy;

A: Secretary of Health and Human Services;

A: Secretary of Homeland Security;

A: Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

A: Secretary of the Interior;

A: Secretary of Labor;

A: Secretary of State;

A: Secretary of Transportation;

A: Secretary of the Treasury;

A: Secretary of Veterans Affairs;

A: Attorney General; or

A: Vice President

Q: What does the judicial branch do?

A: Reviews laws;

A: Explains laws;

A: Resolves disputes; or

A: Decides if a law goes against the Constitution

Q: What is the highest court in the United States?

A: The Supreme Court

Q: How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

A: Nine (9). Visit

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/justices> for more information.

Q: Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

A: John Roberts. Visit

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/justices> for most updated.

Q: Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?

A: To print money;

A: To declare war;

A: To create an army; or

A: To make treaties

Q: Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?

A: Provide schooling and education;

A: Provide protection (police);

A: Provide safety (fire departments);

A: Give a driver's license; or

A: Approve zoning and land use

Q: Who is the Governor of your state now?

A: Answers will vary. Visit <https://www.nga.org/governors> for more information.

Q: What is the capital of your state?

A: Answers will vary. Visit <https://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/capitals-usa.htm> for more information.

Q: What are the two major political parties in the United States?

A: Democratic and Republican

Q: What is the political party of the President now?

A: Democratic. Visit <https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/president-biden/> for more information.

Q: What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

A: Kevin McCarthy. Visit <https://www.speaker.gov/> for more information.

C: Rights and Responsibilities

Q: There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

A: Citizens eighteen (18) and older can vote;

A: You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote;

A: Any citizen can vote (Women and men can vote); or

A: A male citizen of any race can vote

Q: What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?

A: Serve on a jury; or

A: Vote in a federal election

Q: Name one right that is only for United States citizens.

A: Vote in a federal election; or

A: Run for federal office

Q: What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?

A: Freedom of expression;

A: Freedom of speech;

A: Freedom of assembly;

A: Freedom to petition the government;

A: Freedom of religion;

A: Or the right to bear arms

Q: What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

A: The United States; or

A: The flag

Q: What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?

A: Give up loyalty to other countries;

A: Defend the Constitution and laws of the United States;

A: Obey the laws of the United States;

A: Serve in the U.S. military (if needed);

A: Serve the nation (if needed); or

A: Be loyal to the United States

Q: How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?

A: Eighteen (18) and older

Q: What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?

A: Vote;

A: Join a political party;

A: Help with a campaign;

A: Join a civic group;

A: Join a community group;

A: Give an elected official your opinion on an issue;

A: Call Senators and Representatives;

A: Publicly support or oppose an issue or policy;

A: Run for office; or

A: Write to a newspaper

Q: When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?

A: April 15

Q: When must all men register for the Selective Service?

A: At age eighteen (18) and before age twenty-six (26)

American History

A: Colonial Period and Independence

Q: What is one reason colonists came to America?

A: Freedom;

A: Political liberty;

A: Religious freedom;

A: Economic opportunity;

A: Practice their religion; or

A: Escape persecution

Q: Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

A: American Indians; or

A: Native Americans

Q: What group was taken to America and sold as slaves?

A: Africans; or

A: People from Africa

Q: Why did the colonists fight the British?

A: Because of high taxes (taxation without representation);

A: Because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering); or

A: Because they didn't have self-government

Q: Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

A: (Thomas) Jefferson

Q: When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

A: July 4, 1776

Q: There were 13 original states. Name three.

A: New Hampshire;

A: Massachusetts;

A: Rhode Island;

A: Connecticut;

A: New York;

A: New Jersey;

A: Pennsylvania;

A: Delaware;

A: Maryland;

A: Virginia;

A: North Carolina;

A: South Carolina; or

A: Georgia

Q: What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

A: The Constitution was written;
or

A: The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution

Q: When was the Constitution written?

A: 1787

Q: The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the Constitution. Name one of the writers.

A: (James) Madison;

A: (Alexander) Hamilton;

A: (John) Jay; or

A: Publius

Q: What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

A: U.S. Diplomat;

A: Oldest member of the Constitutional Convention;

A: First Postmaster General of the United States;

A: Writer of “Poor Richard’s Almanac”; or

A: Started the first free libraries

Q: Who is the “Father of Our Country”?

A: (George) Washington

Q: Who was the first President?

A: (George) Washington

B: 1800s

Q: What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

A: The Louisiana Territory; or

A: Louisiana

Q: Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.

A: War of 1812;

A: Mexican-American War;

A: Civil War; or

A: Spanish-American War

Q: Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.

A: The Civil War; or

A: The War between the States

Q: Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

A: Slavery;

A: Economic reasons; or

A: States’ rights

Q: What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?

A: Freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation);

A: Saved (or preserved) the Union; or

A: Led the United States during the Civil War

Q: What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

A: Freed the slaves;

A: Freed slaves in the Confederacy;

A: Freed slaves in the Confederate slaves; or

A: Freed slaves in the most Southern states

Q: What did Susan B. Anthony do?

A: Fought for women’s rights; or

A: Fought for civil rights

C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

Q: Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.

A: World War I;

A: World War II;

A: Korean War;

A: Vietnam War; or

A: (Persian) Gulf War

Q: Who was President during World War I?

A: (Woodrow) Wilson

Q: Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?

A: (Franklin) Roosevelt

Q: Who did the United States fight in World War II?

A: Japan, Germany, and Italy

Q: Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?

A: World War II

Q: During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?

A: Communism

Q: What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

A: Civil rights (movement)

Q: What did Martin Luther King Jr. do?

A: Fought for civil rights; or

A: Worked for equality for all Americans

Q: What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?

A: Terrorists attacked the United States

Q: Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

A: Cherokee;

A: Navajo;

A: Sioux;

A: Choctaw;

A: Pueblo;

A: Apache;

A: Iroquois;

A: Creek;

A: Blackfeet;

A: Seminole;

A: Cheyenne;

A: Arawak;

A: Shawnee;

A: Mohegan;

A: Huron;

A: Oneida;

A: Lakota;

A: Crow;

A: Teton;

A: Hopi; or

A: Inuit

Integrated Civics

A: Geography

Q: Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

A: Missouri (River); or

A: Mississippi (River)

Q: What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

A: Pacific (Ocean)

Q: What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?

A: Atlantic (Ocean)

Q: Name one U.S. territory.

A: Puerto Rico;

A: U.S. Virgin Islands;

A: American Samoa;

A: Northern Mariana Islands; or

A: Guam

Q: Name one state that borders Canada.

A: Maine;

A: New Hampshire;

A: Vermont;

A: New York;

A: Pennsylvania;

A: Ohio;

A: Michigan;

A: Minnesota;

A: North Dakota;;

A: Montana

A: Idaho;

A: Washington; or

A: Alaska

Q: Name one state that borders Mexico.

A: California;

A: Arizona;

A: New Mexico; or

A: Texas

Q: What is the capital of the United States?

A: Washington, D.C.

Q: Where is the Statue of Liberty?

A: New York (Harbor); or

A: Liberty Island

B: Symbols

Q: Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

A: Because there were 13 original colonies; or

A: Because the stripes represent the original colonies

Q: Why does the flag have 50 stars?

A: Because there is a star for each state;

A: Because each star represents a state; or

A: Because there are 50 states

Q: What is the name of the National Anthem?

A: The Star-Spangled Banner

C: Holidays

Q: When do we celebrate Independence Day?

A: July 4



Q: Name two national U.S. holidays.

A: New Year's Day;

A: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;

A: Presidents' Day;

A: Memorial Day;

A: Juneteenth;

A: Independence Day;

A: Labor Day;

A: Columbus Day;

A: Veterans Day;

A: Thanksgiving; or

A: Christmas