

100 Citizenship Questions

You will be asked up to 10 questions. You must answer 6 correctly.

1. What is the supreme law of the land?

- *the Constitution*

2. What does the Constitution do?

- *sets up the government* OR ▪ *protects basic rights of Americans*

3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?

- *We the People*

4. What is an amendment?

- *a change or addition to the Constitution*

5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

- *the Bill of Rights*

6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?

- *speech* ▪ *religion* ▪ *assembly* ▪ *press* ▪ *petition the government*

7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?

- *twenty-seven (27)*

8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?

- *said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)*

9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

- *life* ▪ *liberty* ▪ *pursuit of happiness*

10. What is freedom of religion?

- *You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.*

11. What is the economic system in the United States?

- *capitalist economy* OR ▪ *market economy*

12. What is the “rule of law”?

- *Everyone must follow the law.*

13. Name one branch or part of the government.

- *Legislative (Congress)* ▪ *Executive (President)* ▪ *Judicial (the courts)*

14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

- *checks and balances* OR ▪ *separation of powers*

15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?

- *the President*

16. Who makes federal laws?

- *Congress*

17. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?

- *the Senate and the House of Representatives*

18. How many U.S. Senators are there?

- *one hundred (100)*

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

- *six (6)*

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

- *Amy Klobuchar* ▪ *Al Franken*

21. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

- *four hundred thirty-five (435)*

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

- *two (2)*

23. Name your U.S. Representative.

- *Keith Ellison* (if you live in Minneapolis or its suburbs)
- *Betty McCollum* (if you live in St. Paul or its suburbs)

24. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

- *all people of the state*

25. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

- *because they have more people*

26. We elect a President for how many years?

- *four (4)*

27. In what month do we vote for President?

- *November*

28. What is the name of the President of the United States now?

- *Barack Obama*

29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?

- *Joe Biden*

30. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

- *the Vice President*

31. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

- *the Speaker of the House*

32. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?

- *the President*

33. Who signs bills to become laws?

- *the President*

34. Who vetoes bills?

- *the President*

35. What does the President's Cabinet do?

- *advises the President*

36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?

- *Vice President* ▪ *Attorney General*
- *Secretary of Agriculture* ▪ *Secretary of Commerce* ▪ *Secretary of Defense* ▪ *Secretary of Education*
- *Secretary of Energy* ▪ *Secretary of Health and Human Services* ▪ *Secretary of Homeland Security*
- *Secretary of Housing and Urban Development* ▪ *Secretary of the Interior* ▪ *Secretary of Labor*
- *Secretary of State* ▪ *Secretary of Transportation* ▪ *Secretary of the Treasury*
- *Secretary of Veterans Affairs*

37. What does the judicial branch do?

- *explains laws* OR ▪ *resolves disagreements* OR ▪ *decides if a law goes against the Constitution*

38. What is the highest court in the United States?

- *the Supreme Court*

39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

- *nine (9)*

40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

- *John Roberts*

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

- *to print money* ▪ *to declare war* ▪ *to create an army* ▪ *to make treaties*

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

- *provide education* ▪ *provide safety and protection (fire fighters and police)*
- *give a driver's license* ▪ *approve zoning and land use*

43. Who is the Governor of your state now?

- *Tim Pawlenty*

44. What is the capital of your state?

- *St. Paul*

45. What are the two major political parties in the United States?

- *Democratic and Republican*

46. What is the political party of the President now?

- *Democratic Party*

47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

- *Nancy Pelosi*

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

- *Citizens eighteen (18) and older can vote.* ▪ *You don't have to pay to vote.*
- *Any citizen, man or woman, can vote.* ▪ *A male citizen of any race can vote.*

49. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?

- *serve on a jury* ▪ *vote in a federal election*

50. Name one right only for United States citizens.

- *vote in a federal election* ▪ *run for federal office*

51. What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?

- *freedom of expression* ▪ *freedom of speech* ▪ *freedom of assembly*
- *freedom to petition the government* ▪ *freedom of worship* ▪ *the right to bear arms*

52. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

- *the United States* OR ▪ *the flag*

53. What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?

- *be loyal to the United States* ▪ *give up loyalty to other countries*
- *defend the Constitution and laws of the United States* ▪ *obey the laws of the United States*
- *serve in the U.S. military if needed* ▪ *serve (do important work for) the nation if needed*

54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?

- *eighteen (18) and older*

55. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?

- *vote* ▪ *join a political party* ▪ *help with a campaign* ▪ *join a community group*
- *call or write to an elected official to give your opinion on an issue*
- *run for office* ▪ *write to a newspaper*

56. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?

- *April 15*

57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?

- *at age eighteen (18)*

58. What is one reason colonists came to America?

- *freedom* ▪ *religious freedom* ▪ *economic opportunity* ▪ *escape persecution*

59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

- *American Indians (Native Americans)*

60. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?

- *people from Africa*

61. Why did the colonists fight the British?

- *because they didn't have self-government* OR ▪ *because of high taxes (taxation without representation)*

62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

- *Thomas Jefferson*

63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

- *July 4, 1776*

64. There were 13 original states. Name three.

- *Connecticut* ▪ *Delaware* ▪ *Georgia* ▪ *Maryland* ▪ *Massachusetts* ▪ *New Hampshire* ▪ *New Jersey*
- *New York* ▪ *North Carolina* ▪ *Pennsylvania* ▪ *Rhode Island* ▪ *South Carolina* ▪ *Virginia*

65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

- *The Constitution was written.*

66. When was the Constitution written?

- *1787*

67. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.

- *James Madison* ▪ *Alexander Hamilton* ▪ *John Jay* ▪ *Publius*

68. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

- *U.S. diplomat* ▪ *started the first free libraries* ▪ *oldest member of the Constitutional Convention*
- *first Postmaster General of the United States* ▪ *writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac"*

69. Who is the "Father of Our Country"?

- *George Washington*

70. Who was the first President?

- *George Washington*

71. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

- *Louisiana*

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

- *War of 1812* ▪ *Mexican-American War* ▪ *Civil War* ▪ *Spanish-American War*

73. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.

- *the Civil War*

74. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

- *slavery* ▪ *economic reasons* ▪ *states' rights*

75. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?

- *freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)* ▪ *saved the Union* ▪ *led the United States during the Civil War*

76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

- *freed the slaves*

77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

- *fought for women's rights*

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

- *World War I* ▪ *World War II* ▪ *Korean War* ▪ *Vietnam War* ▪ *Persian Gulf War*

79. Who was President during World War I?

- *Woodrow Wilson*

80. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?

- *Franklin Roosevelt*

81. Who did the United States fight in World War II?

- *Japan, Germany, and Italy*

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

- *World War II*

83. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?

- *Communism*

84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

- *civil rights*

85. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

- *fought for civil rights* OR ▪ *worked for equality for all Americans*

86. What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?

- *Terrorists attacked the United States.*

87. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

- *Cherokee* ▪ *Navajo* ▪ *Sioux* ▪ *Chippewa* ▪ *Choctaw* ▪ *Pueblo* ▪ *Apache* ▪ *Iroquois* ▪ *Creek*
▪ *Blackfeet* ▪ *Seminole* ▪ *Cheyenne* ▪ *Arawak* ▪ *Shawnee* ▪ *Mohegan* ▪ *Huron* ▪ *Oneida*
▪ *Lakota* ▪ *Crow* ▪ *Teton* ▪ *Hopi* ▪ *Inuit*

88. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

- *Missouri River* ▪ *Mississippi River*

89. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

- *Pacific*

90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?

- *Atlantic*

91. Name one U.S. territory.

- *Puerto Rico* ▪ *U.S. Virgin Islands* ▪ *American Samoa* ▪ *Northern Mariana Islands* ▪ *Guam*

92. Name one state that borders Canada.

- *Maine* ▪ *New Hampshire* ▪ *Vermont* ▪ *New York* ▪ *Pennsylvania* ▪ *Ohio* ▪ *Michigan* ▪ *Minnesota*
- *North Dakota* ▪ *Montana* ▪ *Idaho* ▪ *Washington* ▪ *Alaska*

93. Name one state that borders Mexico.

- *California* ▪ *Arizona* ▪ *New Mexico* ▪ *Texas*

94. What is the capital of the United States?

- *Washington, D.C.*

95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?

- *New York Harbor*

96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

- *because there were 13 original colonies*

97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?

- *because there is one star for each state*

98. What is the name of the national anthem?

- *The Star-Spangled Banner*

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?

- *July 4*

100. Name two national U.S. holidays.

- *New Year's Day* ▪ *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day* ▪ *Presidents' Day* ▪ *Memorial Day*
- *Independence Day* ▪ *Labor Day* ▪ *Columbus Day* ▪ *Veterans Day* ▪ *Thanksgiving* ▪ *Christmas*

Reading Practice

You will be asked to read at least one question aloud. Here are some practice questions.

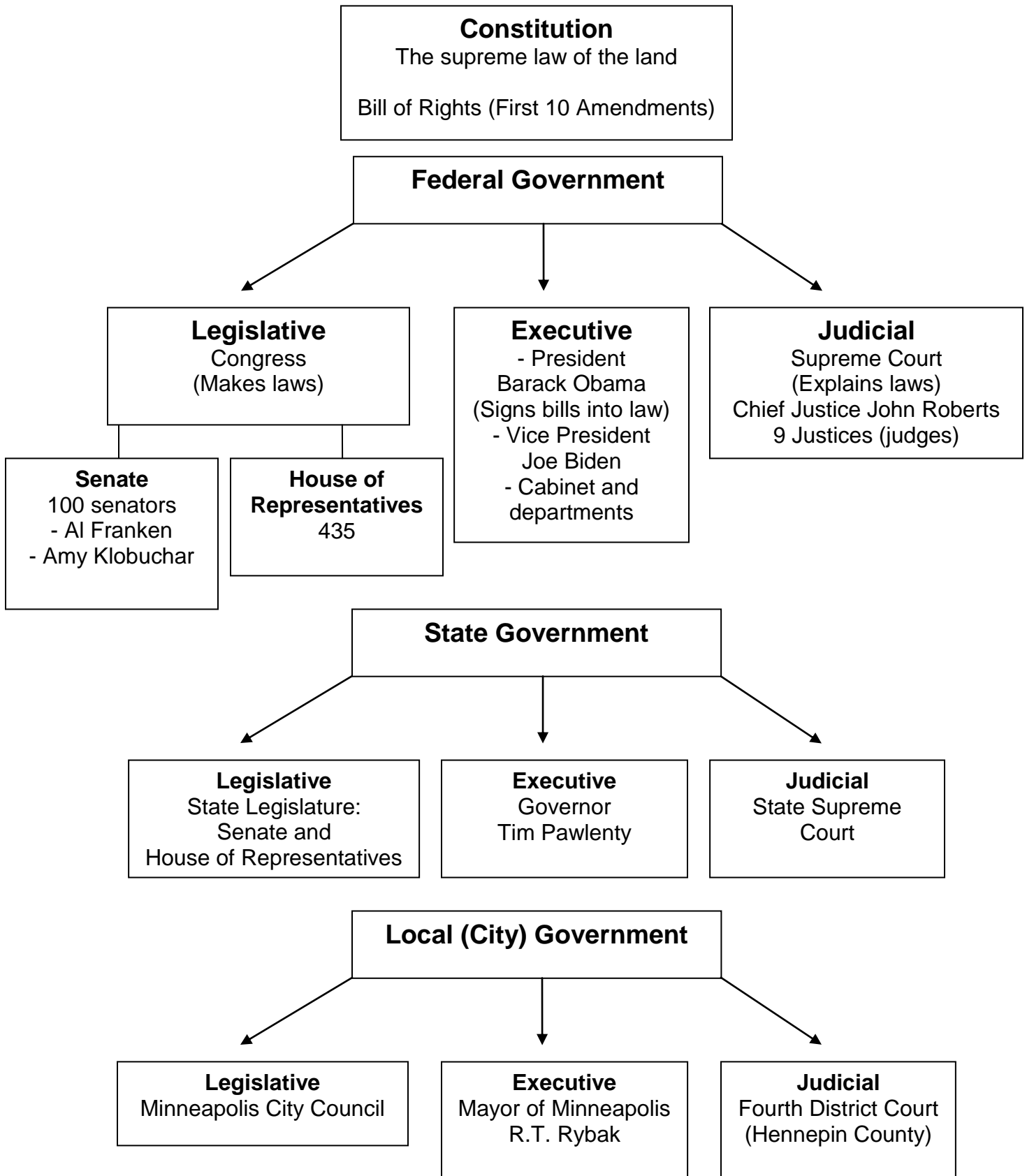
Adapted from Citizenship: Passing the Test, by Lynne Weintraub (New Readers Press)

1. How many states are in the United States?
2. What is the capital of the United States?
3. What are the colors of the flag?
4. What is on the American flag?
5. When is Flag Day?
6. What was the first U.S. capital?
7. What state has the most people?
8. What country is north of the United States?
9. What is the largest state?
10. What country is south of the United States?
11. Who lived here first?
12. Why do people want to be citizens?
13. Why do people come to America?
14. When is Columbus Day?
15. When is Thanksgiving?
16. What was the first U.S. state?
17. Who is the father of our country?
18. Who was the first president?
19. What president is on the dollar bill?
20. Who was the second president?
21. Who was Abraham Lincoln?
22. When is Presidents' Day?
23. When is Memorial Day?
24. Name one right in the Bill of Rights.
25. Who elects Congress?
26. How many senators do we have?
27. Where does Congress meet?
28. When do we vote for president?
29. Where does the president live?
30. Where is the White House?
31. When is Labor Day?
32. What do we have to pay to the government?
33. What does Congress do?
34. Who can vote?
35. When is Independence Day?

Writing Practice

After you read a question, you will listen as the interviewer says the answer. Then you will write the answer down. Here are some sentences to practice writing.
Adapted from Citizenship: Passing the Test, by Lynne Weintraub (New Readers Press)

1. The United States has 50 states.
2. Washington, D.C. is the capital.
3. The flag is red, white and blue.
4. The flag has red and white stripes.
5. Flag Day is in June.
6. New York City was the first capital.
7. California has the most people.
8. Canada is north of the United States.
9. Alaska is the largest state.
10. Mexico is south of the United States.
11. American Indians lived here first.
12. They want to live in a free country.
13. People come here to be free.
14. Columbus Day is in October.
15. Thanksgiving is in November.
16. Delaware was the first state.
17. Washington is the father of our country.
18. Washington is on the dollar bill.
19. Washington was the first president.
20. Adams was the second president.
21. Lincoln was the president during the Civil War.
22. Presidents' Day is in February.
23. Memorial Day is in May.
24. Freedom of speech is a right.
25. The people elect Congress.
26. We have 100 senators
27. Congress meets in Washington, D.C.
28. We vote for president in November.
29. The president lives in the White House.
30. The White House is in Washington, D.C.
31. Labor Day is in September.
32. We have to pay taxes.
33. Congress makes laws.
34. Citizens can vote.
35. Independence Day is in July



Testing Tip

Most of the test questions begin with these words:

**Who... When... Where... Why... What... How many...
For how long...**

Who refers to a person or group of people.

Who was the first president? George Washington

Who makes federal laws? Congress

When refers to a date or time.

When was the Constitution written? 1787

Where refers to a place.

Where is the statue of liberty? New York Harbor

Why asks you for a reason for something.

Why did the colonists fight the British? Because of high taxes

What refers to the name of a thing or action.

What is the supreme law of the land? The Constitution

What does the Constitution do? Sets up the government

How many refers to a number.

How many senators are there in Congress? 100

For how long refers to a time such as years, months or days

For how long do we elect the representatives? Two years.

Adapted from Citizenship for Us (CLINIC, 2003, p. 134).

Citizenship Interview Information

Adapted from the Minnesota Literacy Council (www.themlc.org/teachcitizenship)

- You will be asked to raise your right hand and swear to tell the truth at the beginning of the interview.
- You will be asked for your green card. Have it ready.
- Bring copies of all important documents, such as your passport or marriage certificate. You may need to leave these copies with the interviewer.
- You will be asked 10 questions (out of 100), and you must answer 6 correctly.
- Wait for the interviewer to finish asking a question before you answer it.
- You need to speak your answers. Nodding or shaking your head isn't enough.
- Don't answer a question if you don't understand it. Ask the interviewer to repeat or explain the question: "Please say it again." "Please speak slowly." "Please explain."
- After you answer a question, the interviewer may ask you to define a word or say more about what the question means, to make sure you understand. It's important to understand, not just memorize, the questions. As you prepare for the interview, ask your teachers to explain the questions.
- To answer the Yes / No questions, you only need to say "yes" or "no." But the interviewer might ask you more questions to make sure you understand. If you give the longer answer (for example, "I never said I was a citizen"), you show right away that you understand.
- For the reading test, the interviewer will give you a question to read. Then, for the writing test, the interviewer will say the answer to the question. You will listen and write it down.
- The interviewer will repeat the writing (dictation) sentence if you ask.
- See the reading and writing vocabulary lists in this packet. All of the words in the reading and writing tests come from these vocabulary lists.
- You can pass the writing test even if you make little mistakes. If your mistakes make it hard for the interviewer to read and understand the sentence, then you won't pass.
- If you want to change your name, know what your new name is and how to spell it. It is helpful to write down your new name before the interview and bring it with you.