Civics Flash Cards for the Naturalization Test

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
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These Civics Flash Cards will help immigrants learn about U.S. history and government while preparing for the naturalization test. These flash cards can also be used in the classroom as an instructional tool for citizenship preparation.

IMPORTANT NOTE: On the naturalization test, some answers may change because of elections or appointments. Applicants must be aware of the most current answers to these questions. Applicants must answer these questions with the name of the official who is serving at the time of his or her eligibility interview with USCIS. The USCIS Officer will not accept an incorrect answer.
The 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers for the naturalization test are included in these flash cards. The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS Officer will ask the applicant up to 10 of the 100 civics questions. An applicant must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test.

Although USCIS is aware that there may be additional correct answers to the 100 civics questions, applicants are encouraged to respond to the civics questions using the answers provided on these flash cards.

If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk (*).
What is the supreme law of the land?
The Constitution of the United States. 
Courtesy of the National Archives.
What does the Constitution do?
sets up the government
defines the government
protects basic rights of Americans

The National Mall in Washington, D.C., seen from the observation area of the Washington Monument, circa 1945.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USW31-058713-C.
The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
We the People

“We the People,” the first three words of the preamble to the Constitution of the United States.

Courtesy of the National Archives.
What is an amendment?
- a change (to the Constitution)
- an addition (to the Constitution)

The 20th Amendment to the Constitution.

Section 1. The terms of the President and Vice President shall end at noon on the 20th day of January of the year to which the terms of Senators and Representatives and of the President pro tempore of the Senate shall be appertaining. Section 2. The Congress shall assemble at such time as they may determine and such meeting shall be opened by the President pro tempore of the Senate.
Question 5

What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
the Bill of Rights
What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?*
speech
religion
assembly
press
petition the government

A newspaper stand in 1941.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USF346-BN-001359-Q-C.
Question 7

How many amendments does the Constitution have?
Portrait of Elizabeth Cady Stanton, seated, and Susan B. Anthony, standing, advocates for the rights of women to vote.

What did the Declaration of Independence do?
- announced our independence (from Great Britain)
- declared our independence (from Great Britain)
- said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)

What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
• life
• liberty
• pursuit of happiness
Question 10

What is freedom of religion?
You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.

What is the economic system in the United States?*
capitalist economy
market economy
What is the “rule of law”?
Everyone must follow the law.
Leaders must obey the law.
Government must obey the law.
No one is above the law.

The Contemplation of Justice statue outside the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C.
Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
Question 13

Name one branch or part of the government.*
The U.S. Capitol (legislative branch) and the U.S. Supreme Court (judicial branch) buildings in Washington, D.C.
What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?
checks and balances
separation of powers
Who is in charge of the executive branch?
the President

The White House in Washington, D.C.
Question 16

Who makes federal laws?
Congress

Senate and House (of Representatives)

(U.S. or national) legislature

The U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.
What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?*
the Senate and House (of Representatives)

Aerial view of the west front of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.
How many U.S. Senators are there?
one hundred (100)

The Senators of the 109th Congress.
Courtesy of the U.S. Senate Photo Studio.
We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?
six (6)

Senate hearing on the confirmation of John G. Roberts, Jr. in 2005.
Courtesy of the U.S. Senate Historical Office.
Question 20

Who is one of your state’s U.S. Senators now?*
Answers will vary.  

[District of Columbia residents and residents of U.S. territories should answer that D.C. (or the territory where the applicant lives) has no U.S. Senators.]

Hiram Revels of Mississippi became the first African American Senator in 1870. 

The House of Representatives has how many voting members?
four hundred thirty-five (435)

We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?
Interior view of the Chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives, circa 1861.
Courtesy of the U.S. House of Representatives, Office of Photography.
Question 23

Name your U.S. Representative.
Answers will vary.

[Residents of territories with nonvoting Delegates or Resident Commissioners may provide the name of that Delegate or Commissioner. Also acceptable is any statement that the territory has no (voting) Representatives in Congress.]

Jeannette Rankin, the first woman to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Question 24

Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
all people of the state
Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?
We elect a President for how many years?
The inauguration of President Theodore Roosevelt on March 4, 1905.

In what month do we vote for President?*
November
What is the name of the President of the United States now?*
What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?
Michael R. Pence
Mike Pence
Pence

Vice President Mike Pence.
Courtesy of The White House.
If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
the Vice President

Swearing in of Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson as president aboard Air Force One following the death of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963.

Courtesy of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum, photo by Cecil Stoughton.
If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

Question 31
The Rostrum, a place for public speaking, is the location from which the Speaker of the House presides. Courtesy of the Architect of the Capitol.
Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
the President

President Franklin D. Roosevelt reviewing American troops in Casablanca, Morocco during World War II.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USW33-027834-ZC.
Who signs bills to become laws?
President Lyndon B. Johnson signing the Immigration Act of 1965 on October 3rd of that same year, Liberty Island, NY. Courtesy of the Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum.
Who vetoes bills?
the President

The White House in Washington, D.C.
What does the President’s Cabinet do?
advises the President

What are two Cabinet-level positions?
★ 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
★ Attorney General
★ Vice President
What does the judicial branch do?
reviews laws
explains laws
resolves disputes (disagreements)
decides if a law goes against the Constitution

The Courtroom of the U.S. Supreme Court building, where the Court has sat since 1935.
Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
What is the highest court in the United States?
the Supreme Court

West facade of the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C.

Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
Question 39

How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
There are nine justices on the Supreme Court: eight associate justices and one chief justice.

Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?
John Roberts
(John G. Roberts, Jr.)

Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.
Courtesy of the Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States.
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

President Woodrow Wilson asking Congress to declare war on Germany, April 2, 1917.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-10297.
Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?
provide schooling and education
provide protection (police)
provide safety (fire departments)
give a driver’s license
approve zoning and land use
Who is the Governor of your state now?
Answers will vary.

[District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. does not have a Governor.]
What is the capital of your state?*
Answers will vary.

[District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. is not a state and does not have a capital. Residents of U.S. territories should name the capital of the territory.]
What are the two major political parties in the United States?*
Democratic and Republican

What is the political party of the President now?
Republican
(Party)

Ronald Reagan giving his acceptance speech at the 1980 Republican National Convention, Detroit, MI.

Courtesy of the National Archives.
What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?
Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.
Courtesy of the Office of U.S. Representative Paul D. Ryan.
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 (a poll tax) to vote.
Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)
A male citizen of any race (can vote).

A young woman casting her ballot in the 1964 presidential election.
What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?*
• serve on a jury
• vote in a federal election
Name **one** right only for United States citizens.
vote in a federal election
run for federal office

What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?
Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy speaking at a racial equality demonstration outside the Justice Department on June 14, 1963.

What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
A young boy pledging allegiance at a naturalization ceremony in 1962. Courtesy of the USCIS Historical Library, BK9.4, Item 112.
What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?
★ 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)
★ be loyal to the United States
Question 54

How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?*

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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
eighteen (18) and older
What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?
vote
join a political party
help with a campaign
join a civic group
join a community group
give an elected official your opinion on an issue
call Senators and Representatives
publicly support or oppose an issue or policy
run for office
write to a newspaper
When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?*
April 15
When must all men register for the Selective Service?
at age eighteen (18)
between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)

World War I draft registration card of Irving Berlin, an American composer who became a naturalized citizen in 1918. Courtesy of the National Archives.
What is one reason colonists came to America?
freedom
political liberty
religious freedom
economic opportunity
practice their religion
escape persecution

Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
American Indians

Native Americans

American Indian woman and her baby in 1899.

What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?
Africans
people from Africa

Slaves on a Southern plantation in May 1862.
Why did the colonists fight the British?
because of high taxes (taxation without representation)
because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)

because they didn’t have self-government

Molly Pitcher firing a cannon at the Battle of Monmouth in 1778 during the American Revolutionary War by Percy Moran.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-4969.
Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
(Thomas) Jefferson

Thomas Jefferson. Copy of painting by Rembrandt Peale.
Courtesy of the National Archives,
NARA File # 208-PU-104HH-4.
When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
July 4, 1776

In “Declaration of Independence,” a painting by John Trumbull, Thomas Jefferson and his committee present the formal statement of independence from Great Britain.

Courtesy of the National Archives, NARA File # 148-GW-662.
There were 13 original states. Name three.
What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
The Constitution was written.

The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.

Question 66

When was the Constitution written?
Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA, where the Constitution was signed in 1787.
The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.
Title page of The Federalist, vol. 1, 1799.
What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?
U.S. diplomat
oldest member of the Constitutional Convention
first Postmaster General of the United States

writer of “Poor Richard’s Almanac”
started the first free libraries

“Franklin’s Return to Philadelphia, 1785,”
by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris.
Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-9906.
Who is the “Father of Our Country”? 
(George) Washington

Courtesy of the U.S. Senate, Catalog # 31.00002.000.
Who was the first President?*
(George) Washington

“Washington Crossing the Delaware,”
by Emanuel Leutze.
Courtesy of the National Archives,
NARA File # 066-G-15D-25.
Question 71

What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
the Louisiana Territory

Map of the Louisiana Purchase Territory.
Courtesy of the National Archives.
Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.
Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.
★ the Civil War
★ the War between the States

Name one problem that led to the Civil War.
- slavery
- economic reasons
- states’ rights

Civil War Confederate
General Robert E. Lee.
What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?*
freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)
saved (or preserved) the Union
led the United States during the Civil War

Abraham Lincoln.
What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
freed the slaves
freed slaves in the Confederacy
freed slaves in the Confederate states

What did Susan B. Anthony do?
Susan B. Anthony.


★ fought for women’s rights
★ fought for civil rights
Question 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

Courtesy of the National Archives, 80-G-413988.
Who was President during World War I?
(Woodrow) Wilson

President Woodrow Wilson.
Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?
President Franklin D. Roosevelt signing the Declaration of War against Japan on December 8, 1941.
Courtesy of the National Archives.
Who did the United States fight in World War II?
Japan, Germany, and Italy

Surrender of Japan, September 2, 1945. General Douglas MacArthur signs as Supreme Allied Commander during formal surrender ceremonies aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay. Courtesy of the National Archives.
Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?
World War II

Courtesy of the National Archives.
During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?
Communism

Germans from East and West stand on the Berlin Wall in front of the Brandenburg Gate in this November 10, 1989 photo, one day after the wall opened. The Berlin Wall was a symbol of the tyranny that restrained freedom throughout the Communist bloc of Eastern Europe during the Cold War.

AP Images/STF.
What movement tried to end racial discrimination?
civil rights
(movement)

What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?*
★ fought for civil rights
★ worked for equality for all Americans

Martin Luther King, Jr.
What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?
Terrorists attacked the United States.

Firefighters unfurl a large American flag over the scarred stone of the Pentagon on September 12, 2001.

White House photo by Paul Morse.
Name **one** American Indian tribe in the United States.
★ Cherokee  ★ Apache  ★ Arawak  ★ Crow
★ Navajo  ★ Iroquois  ★ Shawnee  ★ Teton
★ Sioux  ★ Creek  ★ Mohegan  ★ Teton
★ Chippewa  ★ Blackfeet  ★ Huron  ★ Inuit
★ Choctaw  ★ Seminole  ★ Oneida  ★ Lakota
★ Pueblo  ★ Cheyenne  ★ Four Pueblo women.

Name **one** of the two longest rivers in the United States.
★ Missouri (River)
★ Mississippi (River)

The Mississippi River near Minneapolis, MN.
What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?
Pacific (Ocean)

View of the Pacific Ocean from Big Sur, CA, near Bixby Creek Bridge.
What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?
Atlantic (Ocean)

Portland Head Light in Cape Elizabeth, ME.
Name one U.S. territory.
Puerto Rico
★ U.S. Virgin Islands
★ American Samoa
★ Northern Mariana Islands
★ Guam

Old Spanish Bridge in Umatac, Guam.
Courtesy of the Office of U.S. Representative Madeleine Z. Bordallo.
Name one state that borders Canada.
Question 93

Name **one** state that borders Mexico.
What is the capital of the United States?*
Washington, D.C.

A view of Washington, D.C., from Virginia, across the Potomac River. The view shows the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and the U.S. Capitol.
Question 95

Where is the Statue of Liberty?*
New York (Harbor)
Liberty Island
[Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]
Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
because there were 13 original colonies
because the stripes represent the original colonies
Why does the flag have 50 stars?*
because there is one star for each state

because each star represents a state

because there are 50 states
What is the name of the national anthem?
In “The Star-Spangled Banner,” by Percy Moran, Francis Scott Key reaches toward the flag flying over Fort McHenry.

Courtesy of the Library of Congress, LC-USZC4-6200.
When do we celebrate Independence Day?*
July 4

Patriotic celebration at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.
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

Atlantic Pavilion at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.
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