

Here are examples of ways to enhance the cognitive rigor of the basic civics test.

Current Question on Proposed Civics Test

How many amendments are there?

What are the first three words of the Constitution?

How long is the term of a US Senator?

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

How many U.S. Senators are there?

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

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

What does the judicial branch do?

What is one responsibility that is only for United State citizens?

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

Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

Enhanced Cognitive Rigor

What is an amendment and what purpose does it serve? There have been thousands proposed but only a few have been ratified. Why?

Why are the first three words so revolutionary?

Why are terms different lengths for the House and Senate?

Why did so many founders feel that it was essential that we add the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

Why do the numbers of Senators and members of the House of Representatives usually differ within a state?

Why are there two parts of the U.S. Congress?

What is so extraordinary about the line of succession in the Executive Branch?

Why are there branches of the federal government?

Why is jury service and voting so essential to civic life?

Why do we have a system of taxation in this country?

Why was the Declaration of Independence such an important document?

In spite of the Emancipation Proclamation, Lincoln pressed for a Constitutional amendment to abolish slavery and involuntary servitude. Why?