

Basic Civics Test:

Here is a sample test using 50 of the 100 United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS) Civics Test questions. The multiple-choice questions and answers were selected from the practice tests on the USCIS web site. The 50 chosen were selected because they align most closely with civics or with the content of the Utah core standards. Students who pass this test with 35 correct answers or more would fulfill the basic civics test graduation requirement. An LEA may use these questions or select their own 50 from the pool of 100.

1. What are two rights of everyone living in the United States? Choose one:

- a. Freedom to petition the government and freedom to disobey traffic laws.
- b. Freedom of worship and freedom to make treaties with other countries.
- c. Freedom of speech and freedom to run for president.
- d. Freedom of speech and freedom of worship.

Correct Answer: *d. Freedom of speech and freedom of worship.*

2. What is freedom of religion? Choose one:

- a. You can't choose the time you practice your religion.
- b. You must choose a religion.
- c. You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.
- d. No one can practice a religion.

Correct Answer: *c. You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.*

3. Who is in charge of the executive branch? Choose one:

- a. The Speaker of the House.
- b. The Prime Minister.
- c. The President.
- d. The Chief Justice.

Correct Answer: *c. The President.*

4. Name one branch or part of the government. Choose one:

- a. State government.
- b. Legislative.
- c. Parliament.
- d. United Nations.

Correct Answer: *b. Legislative.*

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

- a. The Articles of Confederation.
- b. The inalienable rights.
- c. The Declaration of Independence.
- d. The Bill of Rights.

Correct Answer: *d. The Bill of Rights.*

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

- a. Make treaties.
- b. Provide schooling and education.
- c. Create an army.
- d. Coin or print money.

Correct Answer: *b. Provide schooling and education.*

7. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military? Choose one:

- a. The President.
- b. The Vice-President.
- c. The Secretary of Defense.
- d. The Attorney General.

Correct Answer: *a. The President.*

8. What is one reason colonists came to America? Choose one:

- a. For the experience traveling across the ocean.
- b. Freedom.
- c. To join a civic group.
- d. None of these answers.

Correct Answer: *b. Freedom.*

9. Who is the “Father of Our Country”? Choose one:

- a. George Washington.
- b. Thomas Jefferson.
- c. Abraham Lincoln.
- d. Patrick Henry.

Correct Answer: *a. George Washington.*

10. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves? Choose one:

- a. English.
- b. Africans.
- c. Canadians.
- d. Dutch.

Correct Answer: *b. Africans.*

11. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years? Choose one:

- a. Ten (10).
- b. Four (4).
- c. Two (2).
- d. Six (6).

Correct Answer: *d. Six (6).*

12. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful? Choose one:

- a. The President.
- b. Checks and balances.
- c. The people.
- d. Freedom of speech.

Correct Answer: *b. Checks and balances.*

13. We elect a President for how many years? Choose one:

- a. Eight (8).
- b. Two (2).
- c. Four (4).
- d. Ten (10).

Correct Answer: *c. Four (4).*

14. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words? Choose one:

- a. We the People.
- b. Congress shall make.
- c. We the British.
- d. We the Colonists.

Correct Answer: *a. We the People.*

15. Who makes federal laws? Choose one:

- a. Congress.
- b. The states.
- c. The President.
- d. The Supreme Court.

Correct Answer: *a. Congress.*

16. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do? Choose one:

- a. Became a U.S. Senator.
- b. Fought for civil rights.
- c. Fought for women's suffrage.
- d. Ran for President of the United States.

Correct Answer: *b. Fought for civil rights.*

17. What is the "rule of law"? Choose one:

- a. Everyone but the President must follow the law.
- b. Government does not have to follow the law.
- c. All laws must be the same in every state.
- d. Everyone must follow the law.

Correct Answer: *d. Everyone must follow the law.*

18. What does the Constitution do? Choose one:

- a. Defines the government.
- b. Sets up the government.
- c. Protects basic rights of Americans.
- d. All of these answers.

Correct Answer: *d. All of these answers.*

19. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived? Choose one:

- a. American Indians.
- b. Floridians.
- c. No one.
- d. Canadians.

Correct Answer: *a. American Indians.*

20. What did Susan B. Anthony do? Choose one:

- a. Made the first flag of the United States.
- b. Founded the Red Cross.
- c. Was the first woman elected to the House of Representatives.
- d. Fought for women's rights.

Correct Answer: *d. Fought for women's rights.*

21. What are the two major political parties in the United States today? Choose one:

- a. Reform and Green.
- b. American and Bull-Moose.
- c. Democratic-Republican and Whig.
- d. Democratic and Republican.

Correct Answer: *d. Democratic and Republican.*

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

- a. To provide police departments.
- b. To issue driver's licenses.
- c. To make treaties.
- d. To provide schooling.

Correct Answer: *c. To make treaties.*

23. Who does a U.S. Senator represent? Choose one:

- a. All people of the state in which (s)he was elected.
- b. All people of the state who belong to the Senator's political party.
- c. The state legislatures.
- d. Only the people in the state who voted for the Senator.

Correct Answer: *a. All people of the state in which (s)he was elected.*

24. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President? Choose one:

- a. Thirty-five (35) or older.
- b. Sixteen (16) or older.
- c. Twenty-one (21) or older.
- d. Eighteen (18) or older.

Correct Answer: *d. Eighteen (18) or older.*

25. What happened at the Constitutional Convention? Choose one:

- a. The Declaration of Independence was written.
- b. The Emancipation Proclamation was written.
- c. The Constitution was written.
- d. The Virginia Declaration of Rights was written.

Correct Answer: *c. The Constitution was written.*

26. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for? Choose one:

- a. Youngest member of the Constitutional Convention.
- b. Inventor of the airplane.
- c. Third President of the United States.
- 4. U.S. diplomat.

Correct Answer: *d. U.S. diplomat.*

27. What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States? Choose one:

- a. The accident at Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant occurred.
- b. Hurricane Andrew struck the United States.
- c. Terrorists attacked the United States.
- d. The Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.

Correct Answer: *c. Terrorists attacked the United States.*

28. What does the judicial branch do? Choose one:

- a. Decides if a law goes against the Constitution.
- b. Reviews laws.
- c. Resolves disputes.
- d. All of the above.

Correct Answer: *d. All of the above.*

29. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance? Choose one:

- a. The United States.
- b. The President.
- c. Congress.
- d. The state where you live.

Correct Answer: a. The United States.

30. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? Choose one:

- a. Abraham Lincoln.
- b. James Madison.
- c. George Washington.
- d. Thomas Jefferson.

Correct Answer: d. Thomas Jefferson.

31. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy? Choose one:

- a. Write to a newspaper and call Senators and Representatives.
- b. Give an elected official your opinion on an issue and join a community group.
- c. Vote and join a civic group.
- d. All of these answers.

Correct Answer: d. All of these answers.

32: There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Select the response that accurately describes one of them:

- a. Citizens seventeen (17) and older can vote.
- b. Citizens by birth only can vote.
- c. Citizens eighteen (18) and older can vote.
- d. Only citizens with a job can vote.

Correct Answer: c. Citizens eighteen (18) and older can vote.

33. Who signs bills to become laws? Choose one:

- a. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.
- b. The Vice President.
- c. The Secretary of State.
- d. The President.

Correct Answer: *d. The President.*

34. The House of Representatives has how many voting members? Choose one:

- a. Four hundred forty-one (441).
- b. Four hundred thirty-five (435).
- c. Two hundred (200).
- d. One hundred (100).

Correct Answer: *b. Four hundred thirty-five (435).*

35. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states? Choose one:

- a. Because the state's Representatives have seniority in the House of Representatives.
- b. Because of the state's population.
- c. Because of the geographical size of the state.
- d. Because of the state's location.

Correct Answer: *b. Because of the state's population.*

36. What is an amendment? Choose one:

- a. An addition (to the Constitution).
- b. The Preamble to the Constitution.
- c. An introduction.
- d. The beginning of the Declaration of Independence.

Correct Answer: *a. An addition (to the Constitution).*

37. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens? Choose one:

- a. Pay taxes.
- b. Obey the law.
- c. Be respectful of others.
- d. Serve on a jury.

Correct Answer: *d. Serve on a jury.*

38. Why does the flag have 13 stripes? Choose one:

- a. Because the stripes represent the original colonies.
- b. Because the stripes represent the number of signatures on the U.S. Constitution.
- c. Because it was considered lucky to have 13 stripes on the flag.
- d. Because the stripes represent the members of the Second Continental Congress.

Correct Answer: *a. Because the stripes represent the original colonies.*

39. What is the economic system in the United States? Choose one:

- a. Communist economy.
- b. Capitalist economy.
- c. Socialist economy.
- d. None of these answers.

Correct Answer: *b. Capitalist economy.*

40. When do we celebrate Independence Day? Choose one:

- a. January 1.
- b. July 4.
- c. June 30.
- d. March 4.

Correct Answer: *b. July 4*

41. Name one right belonging only to United States citizens. Choose one:

- a. Freedom of religion.
- b. Run for federal office.
- c. Attend public school.
- d. Freedom of speech.

Correct Answer: *b. Run for federal office.*

42. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress? Choose one:

- a. The House of Representatives and the courts.
- b. The House of Lords and the House of Commons.
- c. The Senate and House of Representatives.
- d. The Senate and the courts.

Correct Answer: *c. The Senate and House of Representatives.*

43. What is the supreme law of the land? Choose one:

- a. The Articles of Confederation.
- b. The Constitution.
- c. The Emancipation Proclamation.
- d. The Declaration of Independence.

Correct Answer: *b. The Constitution.*

44. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years? Choose one:

- a. Six (6).
- b. Two (2).
- c. Four (4).
- d. Eight (8).

Correct Answer: *b. Two (2).*

45. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence? Choose one:

- a. Life and death.
- b. Life and pursuit of happiness.
- c. Liberty and justice.
- d. Life and the right to own a home.

Correct Answer: *b. Life and pursuit of happiness.*

46. What did the Declaration of Independence do? Choose one:

- a. Declared our independence from Great Britain.
- b. Declared our independence from France.
- c. Gave women the right to vote.
- d. Freed the slaves.

Correct Answer: *a. Declared our independence from Great Britain.*

47. What is one right or freedom granted by the First Amendment? Choose one:

- a. Trial by jury.
- b. To vote.
- c. To bear arms.
- d. Speech.

Correct Answer: *d. Speech.*

48. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do? Choose one:

- a. Gave the United States independence from Great Britain.
- b. Ended World War I.
- c. Gave women the right to vote.
- d. Freed slaves in most Southern states.

Correct Answer: *d. Freed slaves in most Southern states.*

49. How many U.S. senators are there?

- a. Fifty-two (52).
- b. Four hundred thirty-five (435).
- c. One hundred (100).
- d. Fifty (50).

Correct Answer: *c. One hundred (100).*

50. Who was the first President? Choose one:

- a. George Washington.
- b. John Adams.
- c. Thomas Jefferson.
- d. Abraham Lincoln.

Correct Answer: *a. George Washington.*