

The Naturalization Test



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The New Naturalization Test: Test Components

Civics

- U.S. History
- U.S. Government
- Integrated Civics
 - Geography
 - Symbols
 - Holidays

English

- Speaking/Listening
- Reading
- Writing



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Exceptions

At the time of filing *Form N-400*...

The applicant is:	Lived as a permanent resident in the U.S. for:	Applicant <u>does not</u> take the:	Applicant must take the:
Age 50	20 years	English test	Civics test in their language of choice
Age 55	15 years	English test	Civics test in their language of choice
Age 65	20 years	English test	Simplified civics test in their language of choice

The Civics Test



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The Civics Test

- 100 Questions
 - Twenty questions for 65/20 applicants marked with an asterisk (*)
- Multiple possible answers
- Forms
 - 10 standard test forms
 - 3 special consideration forms (65/20)
 - 55/15 and 50/20 use standard test forms
- Each form weighted for fairness
- 10 questions on each form



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The Civics Test: Test Form

Civics Questions

Correct

Incorrect

Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.		
Who was the first President?		

SAMPLE



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The Civics Test: Administration of the Test

- Officer randomly chooses a test form
- Officer asks questions out loud (the civics test is an oral test)
- Officer will repeat and rephrase questions as needed
- Officer stops asking questions after 6 correct answers

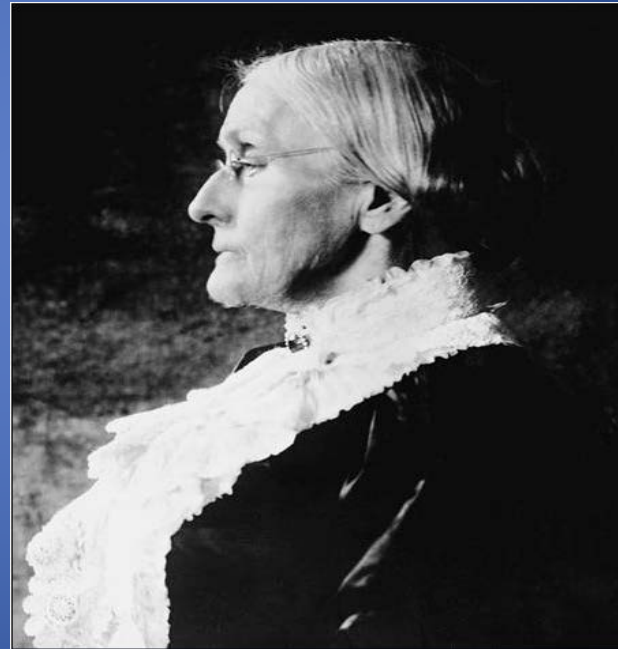


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The Civics Test: Phrasing

77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

- fought for women's rights
- fought for civil rights



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The Civics Test: Types of Questions and Answers

One possible correct answer

1. What is the supreme law of the land?

- the Constitution

7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?

- twenty-seven (27)

39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

- nine (9)



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The Civics Test: Types of Questions and Answers

Choice of possible answers: question asks for one answer

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

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

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

- slavery
- economic reasons
- states' rights



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The Civics Test: Types of Questions and Answers

Applicant must provide more than one answer

64. There were 13 original states. Name three.

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



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The Civics Test: Types of Questions and Answers

Some questions have additional possible answers

68. 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
- (Other)



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The Civics Test: Sentence Structure

Interrogative Pronouns + Verbs

- What is.....
- What are.....
- What does
- What stops
- Who is
- Who makes....
- Who signs.....
- Who vetoes...
- Who lived

Interrogative Pronoun + Verb

- o Why did
- o Where is
- o When do

Note: There are other combinations not listed here.



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The Civics Test: Sentence Structure

Imperative-Type Items

- Name one branch or part of the government.
- Name your U.S. Representative.
- Name one right only for United States citizens.
- Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.
- Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

Note: These are only a few examples of the “name” type of test item.



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The Civics Test: Sentence Structure

Adverb-Type Items

- How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
- How many amendments does the Constitution have?
- How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?



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The Civics Test: Sentence Structure

End-Tag Items

3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
31. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
42. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?



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The Reading Test



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The Reading Test: NRS Level

National Reporting System Level 3: High Beginning

Educational Functioning Level Descriptors—
English as a Second Language Levels

Literacy Level Listening and
Speaking Basic Reading and
Writing Functional and
Workplace Skills High
Beginning ESL *Test benchmark:*

- CASAS scale scores - Reading: 191–200 Listening: 191–200 Writing: 146–200
- BEST Plus: 418–438 (SPL 3) BEST Literacy: 53–63 (SPL 3)
- TABE CLAS-E scale scores:* Total Reading and Writing: 442-482



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Can read familiar phrases and simple sentences but has a limited understanding of connected prose and may need frequent re-reading.

Teaching Reading: Reading Components

- Alphabetic: The process readers use to identify words
- Vocabulary: The body of words whose meanings a person knows and understands
- Fluency: The ability to read with efficiency and ease
- Comprehension: The process and product of understanding text

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Vocational
and Adult Education: *Student Achievement in Reading*



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The Reading Test

- Content covers the fundamental concepts of U.S. history and government
- Applicant reads an interrogative sentence
- Applicant is NOT required to answer the question
- Reading test sentences are not available to the public
- Vocabulary words are publicly available



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The Reading Test: Administration of the Test

- Officer randomly chooses a test form
- Officer places test form in front of applicant
- Officer has applicant read the first item. If applicant fails, then he/she reads the second item and so on
- Applicant must read ONLY 1 of the 3 sentences correctly to pass
- Officer stops asking questions after the applicant reads 1 sentence correctly



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The Reading Test: Test Form

Reading Sample	Correct	Incorrect
1. Where is the Liberty Bell?		
2. Who was the third President?		
3. When is Patriots Day?		

SAMPLE



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The Reading Test: Example of a “Pass”

Reads all content words, but may omit short words that do not interfere with meaning

Sample Reading Test Item: Where is the Liberty Bell?

Applicant reads: “Where Liberty Bell?”



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The Reading Test: Example of a “Fail”

Omits a content word.

Sample Reading Test Item: Where is the Liberty Bell?

Applicant reads: “Where is the bell?”



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The Reading Test: Example of a “Fail”

Substitutes another word for a content word.

Sample Reading Test Item: Where is the Liberty Bell?

Applicant reads: “Where is the library bell?”



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The Reading Test: Example of a “Fail”

Pauses for an extended period of time while reading the sentence.

Sample Reading Test Item: Where is the Liberty Bell?

Applicant reads: “Where is the.....”



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The Writing Test



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The Writing Test

- Content covers the fundamental concepts of U.S. history and government
- Applicant is dictated a declarative sentence
- Writing test sentences are NOT available to the public
- Vocabulary words are publicly available



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The Writing Test: Administration of the Test

- Officer chooses the form that matches the reading test form used
- Officer places test form in front of applicant
- Officer asks applicant to “Write down exactly what I say on the first line.” (Line number 1)
- If applicant fails, the Officer dictates the next sentence and so on
- Applicant must write ONLY 1 of 3 sentences correctly
- Officer stops after applicant writes 1 sentence correctly



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The Writing Test: Test Form

Applicant's Written Response

Correct

Incorrect

1. _____ _____		
2. _____ _____		
3. _____ _____		

SAMPLE



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The Writing Test: Responses

Libertie Bell is in philladelphia



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The Writing Test: Responses

Lebartha Bell feladelpa is



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The Speaking Test



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The Speaking Test

- Applicant's answers to questions normally asked during the eligibility interview on Form N-400
- The Officer is required to repeat and rephrase questions until satisfied that the applicant:
 - fully understands the question
 - does not understand English



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The Speaking Test: Scoring

- The applicant does not need to understand every term, word, or phrase on Form N-400
- The applicant has sufficiently demonstrated his/her ability to speak English if he/she can respond meaningfully to the questions
- Officer draws a red line on Form N-400 where the interview stopped



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The Speaking Test: Example of Re-Phrasing

What is your current legal name?

- What is your name?
- What is your legal name?
- What is your official name?
- What is your full name?



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Key Points to Remember

English Test Components

- **Speaking test:** Form N-400 and interview
- **Writing test:** Dictation, practice listening skills
- **Reading test:** Interrogative sentences (?)

Civics Test

- Oral test
- 100 questions to study



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Questions?



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