Pathway to U.S. Citizenship

For an adult immigrant to become a U.S. citizen, he or she must go through the process of naturalization. The requirements of naturalization call for the immigrant to:

- Be at least 18 years of age
- Be a legally admitted permanent resident (green card holder)
- Have been a U.S. permanent resident for at least 5 years (or at least 3 years if married to and living with a U.S. citizen)
- Have been physically present in the United States for at least 30 months out of the past 5 years as a permanent resident (or 18 months out of the past 3 years if married to and living with a U.S. citizen)
- Have lived within a state or USCIS District for at least 3 months before he or she applies

To learn more, visit www.uscis.gov or call 1 800 375 5283

About the Redesigned Naturalization Test

In the interest of creating a more standardized, fair, and meaningful naturalization process, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) recently completed a multi-year redesign of the naturalization test. The revised test, which places greater emphasis on the fundamental concepts of American democracy and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship, will help encourage citizenship applicants to learn and identify with the basic values we all share as Americans.

Background

Over the past decade, several in-depth studies of the naturalization test revealed concerns with the test's content, how the test was being administered, and how it was being scored. To address these concerns, the federal government launched a test redesign in 2003. In April 2003, the USCIS Office of Citizenship took over responsibility for this redesign. A panel of adult education experts affiliated with Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL), U.S. history and government scholars, expert test development contractors, and other external stakeholders provided input into the redesign.

Redesign Process

The major aim of the redesign process is to ensure that naturalization applicants have uniform, consistent testing experiences. To accomplish these goals, USCIS initially piloted a new test—a 100-item multiple-choice test administered in ten sites across the country. The feedback from this pilot was then used to finalize testing procedures, English reading and writing prompts, and a list of 100 new history and government questions. To ensure the pilot accounted for a representative sample of candidates with a variety of education levels, the test was also piloted at adult education sites nationwide.

Current Test or Redesigned Version

Which version of the test to take?

Following the public introduction of the redesigned naturalization test on September 27, 2007, there will be one full year before naturalization applicants begin taking the revised test. This period will allow adult educators and immigrants working toward citizenship sufficient time to prepare for the redesigned test. The following guidelines will determine whether naturalization applicants will take the current test or the redesigned version:

- If an applicant:
  - Applies before October 1, 2008, and is scheduled for his or her naturalization interview before October 1, 2008, he or she will take the current test.
  - Applies before October 1, 2008, and is scheduled for his or her naturalization interview before October 1, 2008, he or she can choose to take the current test or the redesigned version.
  - Applies after October 1, 2008, he or she will take the redesigned version.

Preparing for the Test

What study materials are available and how can I find English language, civics, and/or citizenship classes?

Following the public introduction of the redesigned naturalization test on September 27, 2007, there will be one full year before naturalization applicants begin taking the revised test. The USCIS Office of Citizenship will provide updated versions of its study materials, including the Civics Flash Cards and learn-about-the-United-States Quick Criss-Cross, to correspond with the content of the revised test. These study materials will be available in early 2008. The current versions of both the Civics Flash Cards and learn-about-the-United-States Quick Criss-Cross will remain available as long as the current test is administered. Additional study materials will also be introduced throughout the course of the one full year. For many applicants, adult education classes are an excellent place to learn English and prepare for the naturalization test. Many local school districts, community colleges, libraries, and other community-based organizations offer English language and civics classes. These opportunities, however, are not controlled in one place. To find an appropriate class, try these options:

- Visit http://www.WelcometoUSA.gov
- Look in the yellow pages of your telephone book under the heading "Language Schools."
- Contact your local public library and ask if they offer English language or citizenship classes.
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Demonstrate a basic knowledge of U.S. history, government, and civic principles

- Swear an oath of allegiance to the United States

Demonstrate an ability to read, write, speak, and understand basic English

- Receive a Certificate of Naturalization

Demonstrate “good moral character” by behaving in a legal and acceptable manner during the 5 years as a permanent resident (or 3 years if married to and living with a U.S. citizen)

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Components of the Redesigned Naturalization Test

**Redesigned Naturalization Test**

During the interview, you will be asked 10 questions from the list below. You must answer correctly at least six of the 10 questions to pass the civics portion.

### American Government

**A: Principles of American Democracy**
- What is the supreme law of the land? What is the Constitution do?
- What is the Constitution do?
- What does the Constitution do?
- What amendments does the Constitution have?
- What did the Declaration of Independence do?
- What laws does the Declaration of Independence?
- What does the Bill of Rights do?
- What are the rights do?
- What is the rule of law?

**B: Separation of Government**
- What is the branch of government?
- What is the branch of government?
- What is the branch of government?
- How many U.S. Senators are there?
- How many U.S. Representatives are there?
- How do members of congress vote?
- How many U.S. Representatives are there?
- How do members of congress vote?

### Integrated Civics

#### A: Geography
- Name the 10 longest rivers in the United States.
- What are the 10 longest rivers in the United States?
- Name the 10 longest rivers in the United States?
- Name the 10 longest rivers in the United States?
- What is the capital of the United States?

#### B: Symbols
- Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
- Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
- What is the name of the national anthem?

#### C: History
- When did you celebrate Independence Day?
- Name two national holidays.
- Name two national holidays.
- When do we celebrate Independence Day?

### American History

**A: Colonial Period and Independence**
- Who was a major colonist in America?
- Who lived in America be the Europeans arrived?
- What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?
- Why did the colonists fight the British?
- Why did the colonists fight the British?
- What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
- What is the Constitution
- The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.
- What is the Federalist Papers? What was the Federalist Papers? What is the Federalist Papers?

**B: Rights and Responsibilities**
- What is the right of political power? What is the right of political power? What is the right of political power?
- What are the major political parties in the United States?
- What is the political party of the President now?
- What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?
- What is the right of political power? What is the right of political power? What is the right of political power?

**C: Rights and Responsibilities**
- There are four amendments to the Constitution that give the right of political power. What are the four amendments to the Constitution that give the right of political power?
- What are the rights do?
- What are the rights do?
- What are the rights do?
- What are the rights do?
- What are the rights do?
- What are the rights do?
- What are the rights do?
- What are the rights do?
- How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?

### American History and Other Important Dates

- What major events happened in the United States for 200 or more years?
- What major events happened in the United States for 200 or more years?
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- What major events happened in the United States for 200 or more years?
- What major events happened in the United States for 200 or more years?
- What major events happened in the United States for 200 or more years?
- What major events happened in the United States for 200 or more years?

### Civics Test

- Name two longest rivers in the United States.
- What are the two longest rivers in the United States?
- What is the capital of the United States?
- What is the capital of the United States?
- What is the capital of the United States?
- What is the capital of the United States?
- What is the capital of the United States?
- What is the capital of the United States?
- What is the capital of the United States?
- What is the capital of the United States?

### English Test

**Speaking**
- There are no changes being made to the English speaking portion of the test. The speaking portion will continue to include the questions normally asked during the naturalization interview.

**Reading Vocabulary**
- The format for the reading portion of the redesigned English reading test is similar to the current test. Applicants will be provided with up to three chances to correctly read a sentence in English. To help applicants prepare, USCIS is releasing a vocabulary list below containing all of the words found in the redesigned reading test items. The content items will focus on civics and history topics.

**Writing Test**
- The format for the writing portion of the redesigned English writing test is similar to the current test. Applicants will be provided with up to three chances to correctly write a sentence dictated by the adjudicators of English in English. To help applicants prepare, USCIS is releasing a vocabulary list below containing all of the words found in the redesigned writing test items. The content items will focus on civics and history topics.

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If you are 65 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.