

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:



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

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 after 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.
- Is scheduled for his or her naturalization interview after October 1, 2009, regardless of when he or she applied, 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 Civics Lessons*, 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 Civics Lessons* 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 centralized 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.
- Call your local community college or school district and ask about adult education opportunities.
- Call or visit a local community-based organization or place of worship and ask if they offer English language or citizenship classes.

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, with an 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 2000. In April 2005, 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 nationwide, and that the civics test can effectively assess whether applicants have a meaningful understanding of U.S. government and history. Following a basic U.S. history and civics curriculum, the redesigned test will serve as an important instrument to encourage civic learning and patriotism among prospective citizens.

To accomplish these goals, USCIS initially piloted a new test—with an overhauled English reading and writing section, as well as new history and government questions—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.



The Redesigned Naturalization Test

Office of Citizenship



U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Components of the Redesigned Naturalization Test

Redesigned Naturalization Test

Civics 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 does the Constitution do?
 - The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
 - What is an amendment?
 - What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
 - What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?*
 - How many amendments does the Constitution have?
 - What did the Declaration of Independence do?
 - What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
 - What is freedom of religion?
 - What is the economic system in the United States?*
 - What is the "rule of law"?

- B: System of Government**
- Name one branch or part of the government.*
 - What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?
 - Who is in charge of the executive branch?
 - Who makes federal laws?
 - What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?*
 - How many U.S. Senators are there?
 - We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?
 - Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators?*
 - The House of Representatives has how many voting members?
 - We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?
 - Name your U.S. Representative.
 - Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
 - Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?
 - We elect a President for how many years?
 - In what month do we vote for President?*
 - 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?
 - If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
 - If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
 - Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
 - Who signs bills to become laws?
 - Who vetoes bills?
 - What does the President's Cabinet do?
 - What are two Cabinet-level positions?
 - What does the judicial branch do?
 - What is the highest court in the United States?
 - How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

Integrated Civics

- A: Geography**
- Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.
 - What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?
 - What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?
 - Name one U.S. territory.
 - Name one state that borders Canada.
 - Name one state that borders Mexico.
 - What is the capital of the United States?*
 - Where is the Statue of Liberty?*
- B: Symbols**
- Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
 - Why does the flag have 50 stars?*
 - What is the name of the national anthem?
- C: Holidays**
- When do we celebrate Independence Day?*
 - Name two national U.S. holidays.

American History

- A: Colonial Period and Independence**
- What is one reason colonists came to America?
 - Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
 - What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?
 - Why did the colonists fight the British?
 - Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
 - When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
 - There were 13 original states. Name three.
 - What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
 - When was the Constitution written?
 - The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.
 - What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?
 - Who is the "Father of Our Country"?
 - Who was the first President?*
- B: 1800s**
- What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
 - Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.
 - Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.
 - Name one problem that led to the Civil War.
 - What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?*
 - What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
 - What did Susan B. Anthony do?

C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

- Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.*
- Who was President during World War I?
- Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?
- Who did the United States fight in World War II?
- Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?
- During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?
- What movement tried to end racial discrimination?
- What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?*
- What major event happened on September 11, 2001 in the United States?
- Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

English Test

Reading Test

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.

QUESTION WORDS

- PEOPLE**
- Abraham
 - Lincoln
 - George Washington
- CIVICS**
- American flag
 - Bill of Rights
 - capital
 - citizen
 - Congress
 - country
 - Father of Our Country
 - flag
 - government
 - President
 - right/rights
 - Senators
 - states
 - White House

VERBS

- can
- do/does
- elects
- have/has
- is/are/was/be
- lives
- meet
- name
- pay
- vote
- want

OTHER (FUNCTION)

- PLACES**
- America
 - United States
 - U.S.
- HOLIDAYS**
- Presidents' Day
 - Memorial Day
 - Flag Day
 - Independence Day
 - Labor Day
 - Columbus Day
 - Thanksgiving

OTHER (CONTENT)

- dollar bill
- first
- largest
- many
- most
- north
- one
- our
- people
- second
- south

Writing Test

Writing Vocabulary

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 adjudications officer 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.

PEOPLE

- Adams
- Lincoln
- Washington

CIVICS

- American Day
- Indians
- capital
- citizens
- Congress
- Father of
- Our Country
- flag
- free
- freedom of speech
- laws
- President
- right/rights
- Senators
- state/states
- White House

VERBS

- can
- come
- do/does
- elect
- have/has
- is/are/was/be
- lives/lived
- makes
- meets
- pay
- vote
- want

OTHER (CONTENT)

- blue
- colors
- dollar bill
- fifty/50
- first
- largest
- most
- north
- one
- hundred/100
- people
- red
- second
- south
- stripes
- white

PLACES

- Alaska
- California
- Canada
- country
- Delaware
- Mexico
- New York City
- Washington, D.C.
- United States

OTHER (FUNCTION)

- a
- and
- during
- for
- here
- in
- of
- on
- our
- the
- they
- to
- we

MONTHS

- February
- May
- June
- July
- September
- October
- November

*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.