

Sample Civics Questions

1. What are the colors of our flag?
A: Red, white, and blue
2. What do the stars on the flag mean?
A: One for each state
3. How many stars are there on our flag?
A: 50
4. What color are the stars on our flag?
A: White
5. How many stripes are there on the flag?
A: 13
6. What do the stripes on the flag represent?
A: The first 13 states
7. What colors are the stripes on the flag?
A: Red and white
8. How many states are there in the Union (the United States)?
A: 50
9. What do we celebrate on the 4th of July?
A: Independence Day
10. Independence Day celebrates independence from whom?
A: England
11. What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?
A: England
12. Who was the first president of the United States?
A: George Washington
13. Who is the President of the United States today?
A: George W. Bush*
14. Who is the Vice President of the United States today?
A: Dick Cheney*
15. Who elects the President of the United States?
A: The Electoral College
16. Who becomes our President if the President dies?
A: The Vice President
17. What is the Constitution?
A: The supreme law of the land
18. What do we call changes to the Constitution?
A: Amendments
19. How many changes, or amendments, are there to the Constitution?
A: 27*
20. What are the three branches of our Government?
A: Executive, Judicial, and Legislative
21. What is the legislative branch of our Government?
A: Congress
22. What makes up Congress?
A: The Senate and the House of Representatives
23. Who makes the Federal laws in the United States?

A: Congress

24. Who elects Congress?

A: The citizens of the United States

25. How many Senators are there in Congress?

A: 100

26. For how long do we elect each Senator?

A: 6 years

27. How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?

A: 435

28. For how long do we elect each member of the House of Representatives?

A: 2 years

29. Who is the head of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government?

A: The President

30. For how long is the President elected?

A: 4 years

31. Name the highest part of the Judiciary Branch of our Government?

A: The Supreme Court

32. What are the duties of the Supreme Court?

A: To interpret and explain the laws

33. What is the supreme law of the United States?

A: The Constitution

34. What is the Bill of Rights?

A: The first 10 amendments to the Constitution

35. Who becomes President if both the President and Vice President die?

A: Speaker of the House

36. Who is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

A: William Rehnquist*

37. Who said, "Give me liberty or give me death?"

A: Patrick Henry

38. Name some countries that were our enemies during World War II?

A: Germany, Italy, and Japan

39. What was the 49th state added to our Union (the United States)?

A: Alaska

40. How many full terms can a President serve?

A: 2

41. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?

A: A civil rights leader

42. Why are there 100 senators in the United States Senate?

A: Each state elects two

43. Who nominates judges for the Supreme Court?

A: The President

44. How many Supreme Court justices are there?

A: 9

45. Why did the Pilgrims come to America?

A: To gain religious freedom

46. What is the head executive of a state government called?

A: Governor

47. What is the head executive of a city government called?

A: Mayor

48. What holiday was celebrated for the first time by American colonists?

A: Thanksgiving

49. Who was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence?

A: Thomas Jefferson

50. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

A: July 4, 1776

51. What are some of the basic beliefs of the Declaration of Independence?

A: That all men are created equal and have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness

52. What is the national anthem of the United States?

A: The Star-Spangled Banner

53. Who wrote The Star-Spangled Banner?

A: Francis Scott Key

54. What is the minimum voting age in the United States?

A: 18

55. Who signs bills into law?

A: The President

56. What is the highest court in the United States?

A: The Supreme Court

57. Who was President during the Civil War?

A: Abraham Lincoln

58. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

A: It freed the slaves

59. What special group advises the President?

A: The Cabinet

60. Which President is called the "Father of our Country?"

A: George Washington

61. Which President was the first Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Army and Navy?

A: George Washington

62. What was the 50th state added to our Union (the United States)?

A: Hawaii

63. Who helped the Pilgrims in America?

A: The American Indians/Native Americans

64. What is the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?

A: The Mayflower

65. What were the 13 original states of the United States called before they were states?

A: Colonies

66. What group has the power to declare war?

A: Congress

67. Name the amendments that guarantee or address voting rights.

A: 15th, 19th and 24th

68. In what year was the Constitution written?

A: 1787

69. What are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution called?

A: The Bill of Rights

70. Whose rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?

A: All people living in the United States

71. What is the introduction to the Constitution called?

A: The Preamble

72. Who meets in the U.S. Capitol building?

A: Congress

73. What is the name of the President's official home?

A: The White House

74. Where is the White House located?

A: Washington, DC

75. Who is the Commander-in-Chief of the United States military?

A: The President

76. In what month do we vote for the President?

A: November

77. In what month is the new President inaugurated?

A: January

78. How many times may a senator or Congressman be reelected?

A: No limit

79. What are the two major political parties in the United States today?

A: Democratic and Republican

80. What is the executive branch of our Government?

A: The President, the Cabinet, and departments under the cabinet members

81. Where does freedom of speech come from?

A: The Bill of Rights

82. What Immigration and Naturalization Service form is used to apply for naturalized citizenship?

A: Form N-400 (Application for Naturalization)

83. What kind of government does the United States have?

A: A Republic

84. Can the Constitution be changed?

A: Yes

85. What is the most important right granted to United States citizens?

A: The right to vote

86. What is the White House?

A: The President's official home

87. What is the United States Capitol?

A: The place where Congress meets

88. How many branches are there in the United States Government?

A: 3

* Note: the answers to questions marked with asterisks will change. Check to be sure you have the correct answer.