

Sample Civics Questions for Elderly Applicants

Persons over the age of 65 who are Permanent Residents and who have resided in the United States as Permanent Residents for at least 20 years have different requirements for history and government knowledge. They may also be tested in the language of their choice since they are exempt from the English literacy requirements.

1. Why do we celebrate the Fourth of July?
A: It is Independence Day
2. Who was the first President of the United States?
A: George Washington
3. Who is the President of the United States now?
A: George W. Bush*
4. What is the Constitution?
A: The supreme law of the land
5. What are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution called?
A: The Bill of Rights
6. Who elects Congress?
A: The citizens of the United States
7. How many Senators are there in Congress?
A: 100
8. For how long do we elect each Senator?
A: 6 years
9. For how long do we elect the each member of the House of Representatives?
A: 2 years
10. Who nominates judges to the Supreme Court?
A: The President
11. What are the three branches of our Government?
A: Legislative, Executive, and Judicial
12. What is the highest court in the United States?
A: The Supreme Court
13. What major river running North to South divides the United States?
A: The Mississippi River

14. The Civil War was fought over what important issues?
A: Slavery and states' rights
15. What are the two major political parties in the United States today?
A: Republican and Democrat
16. How many states are there in the United States?
A: 50
17. What is the capital of the United States?
A: Washington, DC
18. What is the minimum voting age in the United States?
A: 18
19. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?
A: A civil rights leader
20. What nation was first to land a man on the moon?
A: The United States
21. What is it called if the President refuses to sign a bill into law and returns it to Congress with his objections?
A: Veto
22. What two oceans border the United States?
A: The Atlantic and Pacific Oceans
23. What famous American invented the electric light bulb?
A: Thomas Edison
24. What is the national anthem of the United States?
A: The Star-Spangled Banner

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