

## 100 Civics Questions & Answers

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
  - **the Constitution**
2. What does the Constitution do?
  - **sets up the government**
  - **defines the government**
  - **protects basic rights of Americans**
3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
  - **We the People**
4. What is an amendment?
  - **a change (to the Constitution)**
  - **an addition (to the Constitution)**
5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
  - **the Bill of Rights**
6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?
  - **speech**
  - **religion**
  - **assembly**
  - **press**
  - **petition the government**
7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
  - **twenty-seven (27)**
8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
  - **announced our independence (from Great Britain)**
  - **declared our independence (from Great Britain)**
  - **said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)**
9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
  - **life**
  - **liberty**
  - **pursuit of happiness**
10. What is freedom of religion?
  - **You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.**
11. What is the economic system in the United States?
  - **capitalist economy**
  - **market economy**
12. What is the “rule of law”?
  - **Everyone must follow the law.**
  - **Leaders must obey the law.**
  - **Government must obey the law.**
  - **No one is above the law.**
13. Name one branch or part of the government.
  - **Congress**
  - **legislative**
  - **President**
  - **executive**
  - **the courts**
  - **judicial**
14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?
  - **checks and balances**
  - **separation of powers**
15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?
  - **the President**
16. Who makes federal laws?
  - **Congress**
  - **Senate and House (of Representatives)**
  - **(U.S. or national) legislature**
17. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?
  - **the Senate and House (of Representatives)**
18. How many U.S. Senators are there?
  - **one hundred (100)**
19. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?
  - **six (6)**
20. Who is one of your state’s U.S. Senators now?
  - **Robert Casey or Pat Toomey**
21. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?
  - **four hundred thirty-five (435)**
22. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?
  - **two (2)**
23. Name your U.S. Representative.
  - **Rep. Joe Pitts**
24. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
  - **all people of the state**
25. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?
  - **(because of) the state’s population**
  - **(because) they have more people**
  - **(because) some states have more people**
26. We elect a President for how many years?
  - **four (4)**
27. In what month do we vote for President?
  - **November**
28. What is the name of the President of the United States now?
  - **Barack Obama**
29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?
  - **Joe Biden**
30. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
  - **the Vice President**
31. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
  - **the Speaker of the House**
32. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
  - **the President**
33. Who signs bills to become laws?
  - **the President**
34. Who vetoes bills?
  - **the President**
35. What does the President’s Cabinet do?
  - **advises the President**
36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?
  - **Secretary of Agriculture**
  - **Secretary of Commerce**
  - **Secretary of Defense**
  - **Secretary of Education**
  - **Secretary of Energy**
  - **Secretary of Health and Human Services**
  - **Secretary of Homeland Security**
  - **Secretary of Housing and Urban Development**
  - **Secretary of the Interior**
  - **Secretary of Labor**
  - **Secretary of State**
  - **Secretary of Transportation**
  - **Secretary of the Treasury**
  - **Secretary of Veterans Affairs**
  - **Attorney General**
  - **Vice President**
37. What does the judicial branch do?
  - **reviews laws**
  - **explains laws**
  - **resolves disputes (disagreements)**
  - **decides if a law goes against the Constitution**
38. What is the highest court in the United States?
  - **the Supreme Court**
39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
  - **nine (9)**
40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?
  - **John Roberts (John G. Roberts, Jr.)**
41. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?
  - **to print money**
  - **to declare war**
  - **to create an army**
  - **to make treaties**
42. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?

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- provide schooling and education
  - provide protection (police)
  - provide safety (fire departments)
  - give a driver's license
  - approve zoning and land use
43. Who is the Governor of your state now?
- **Tom Corbett**
44. What is the capital of your state?
- **Harrisburg, PA**
45. What are the two major political parties in the United States?
- **Democratic and Republican**
46. What is the political party of the President now?
- **Democratic (Party)**
47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?
- **John Boehner**
48. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.
- **Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).**
  - **You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.**
  - **Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)**
  - **A male citizen of any race (can vote).**
49. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?
- **serve on a jury**
  - **vote in a federal election**
50. Name one right only for United States citizens.
- **vote in a federal election**
  - **run for federal office**
51. What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?
- **freedom of expression**
  - **freedom of speech**
  - **freedom of assembly**
  - **freedom to petition the government**
  - **freedom of worship**
  - **the right to bear arms**
52. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
- **the United States**
  - **the flag**
53. What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?
- **give up loyalty to other countries**
  - **defend the Constitution and laws of the United States**
  - **obey the laws of the United States**
  - **serve in the U.S. military (if needed)**
- **serve (do important work for) the nation (if needed)**
  - **be loyal to the United States**
54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?
- **eighteen (18) and older**
55. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?
- **vote**
  - **join a political party**
  - **help with a campaign**
  - **join a civic group**
  - **join a community group**
  - **give an elected official your opinion on an issue**
  - **call Senators and Representatives**
  - **publicly support or oppose an issue or policy**
  - **run for office**
  - **write to a newspaper**
56. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?
- **April 15**
57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?
- **at age eighteen (18)**
  - **between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)**
58. What is one reason colonists came to America?
- **freedom**
  - **political liberty**
  - **religious freedom**
  - **economic opportunity**
  - **practice their religion**
  - **escape persecution**
59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
- **American Indians**
  - **Native Americans**
60. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?
- **Africans**
  - **people from Africa**
61. Why did the colonists fight the British?
- **because of high taxes (taxation without representation)**
  - **because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)**
  - **because they didn't have self-government**
62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
- **(Thomas) Jefferson**
63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
- **July 4, 1776**
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**
65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
- **The Constitution was written.**
  - **The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.**
66. When was the Constitution written?
- **1787**
67. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.
- **(James) Madison**
  - **(Alexander) Hamilton**
  - **(John) Jay**
  - **Publius**
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**
69. Who is the "Father of Our Country"?
- **(George) Washington**
70. Who was the first President?
- **(George) Washington**
71. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
- **the Louisiana Territory**
  - **Louisiana**
72. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.
- **War of 1812**
  - **Mexican-American War**
  - **Civil War**
  - **Spanish-American War**

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73. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.

- **the Civil War**
- **the War between the States**

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

- **slavery**
- **economic reasons**
- **states' rights**

75. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?

- **freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)**
- **saved (or preserved) the Union**
- **led the United States during the Civil War**

76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

- **freed the slaves**
- **freed slaves in the Confederacy**
- **freed slaves in the Confederate states**
- **freed slaves in most Southern states**

77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

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

78. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s

- **World War I**
- **World War II**
- **Korean War**
- **Vietnam War**
- **(Persian) Gulf War**

79. Who was President during World War I?

- **(Woodrow) Wilson**

80. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?

- **(Franklin) Roosevelt**

81. Who did the United States fight in World War II?

- **Japan, Germany, and Italy**

82. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?

- **World War II**

83. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?

- **Communism**

84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

- **civil rights (movement)**

85. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

- **fought for civil rights**
- **worked for equality for all Americans**

86. What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?

- **Terrorists attacked the United States.**

87. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

- **Cherokee**
- **Navajo**
- **Sioux**
- **Chippewa**
- **Choctaw**
- **Pueblo**
- **Apache**
- **Iroquois**
- **Creek**
- **Blackfeet**
- **Seminole**
- **Cheyenne**
- **Arawak**
- **Shawnee**
- **Mohegan**
- **Huron**
- **Oneida**
- **Lakota**
- **Crow**
- **Teton**
- **Hopi**
- **Inuit**

88. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

- **Missouri (River)**
- **Mississippi (River)**

89. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

- **Pacific (Ocean)**

90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?

- **Atlantic (Ocean)**

91. Name one U.S. territory.

- **Puerto Rico**
- **U.S. Virgin Islands**
- **American Samoa**
- **Northern Mariana Islands**
- **Guam**

92. Name one state that borders Canada.

- **Maine**
- **New Hampshire**
- **Vermont**
- **New York**
- **Pennsylvania**
- **Ohio**
- **Michigan**
- **Minnesota**
- **North Dakota**

- **Montana**
- **Idaho**
- **Washington**
- **Alaska**

93. Name one state that borders Mexico.

- **California**
- **Arizona**
- **New Mexico**
- **Texas**

94. What is the capital of the United States?

- **Washington, D.C.**

95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?

- **New York (Harbor)**
- **Liberty Island**

96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

- **because there were 13 original colonies**
- **because the stripes represent the original colonies**

97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?

- **because there is one star for each state**
- **because each star represents a state**
- **because there are 50 states**

98. What is the name of the national anthem?

- **The Star-Spangled Banner**

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?

- **July 4**

100. Name two national U.S. holidays.

- **New Year's Day**
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**
- **Presidents' Day**
- **Memorial Day**
- **Independence Day**
- **Labor Day**
- **Columbus Day**
- **Veterans Day**
- **Thanksgiving**
- **Christmas**