**USCIS Questions and Levels**

American Government

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|  | ***Question*** | ***Emergent*** | ***Beginning*** | ***Intermediate*** | ***Advanced*** |
| **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?**  *To change constitution or addition to 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?** *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?**  c*apitalist 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.* |  |  |  | ✓ |

System of Government

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|  | ***Question*** | ***Emergent*** | ***Beginning*** | ***Intermediate*** | ***Advanced*** |
| **13** | 1. **Name one branch or part of the government.**  *Congress* or *legislative*   *President or* *executive*  *the courts* or *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?** *100* |  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **19** | **We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?** *6* |  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **20** | **Who is one of your state’s U.S. Senators now?** *vary* |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| **21** | **The House of Representatives has how many voting members?** *435* |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| **22** | **We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?** *2* |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| **23** | **Name your U.S. Representative.** *vary* |  |  |  | ✓ |
| **24** | **Who does a U.S. Senator represent?** *Everyone in 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?**  *4* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **27** | **In what month do we vote for President?** *November* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **28** | **What is the name of the President of the United States now?** *Donald**Trump* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **28** | **What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?** *Mike Pence* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **30** | **If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?** *Vice president* |  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **31** | **If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?**  *Speaker of the House* |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| **32** | **Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?**  *President* |  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **33** | **Who signs bills to become laws?**  *President* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **34** | **Who vetoes bills?**  *President* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **35** | **What does the President’s Cabinet do?** *advises the President* |  |  |  | ✓ |
| **36** | **What are two Cabinet-level positions?**  *Secretary of Agriculture*  ▪ *Secretary of Veterans Affairs*  *Secretary of Commerce* ▪ *Secretary of Homeland Security*  *Secretary of Defense* ▪ *Secretary of Education*  *Secretary of Energy* ▪ *Secretary of the Interior*  *Secretary of Labor*  ▪ *Secretary of State*  *Secretary of the Treasury* ▪ *Secretary of Transportation*  *Secretary of Health and Human Services*  *Secretary of Housing and Urban Development*  *Attorney General* ▪ *Vice President* |  |  |  | ✓ |
| **37** | **What does the judicial branch do?**  *reviews laws*  ▪ *resolves disputes (disagreements)*  *explains laws*  ▪ *decides if a law goes against the Constitution* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **38** | **What is the highest court in the United States?**  *Supreme* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **39** | **How many justices are on the Supreme Court?** *nine (9)* |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| **40** | **Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?** *John Roberts* |  |  |  | ✓ |
| **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?**  *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?** *Rick**Snyder* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **44** | **What is the capital of your state?** *Lansing* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **45** | **What are the two major political parties in the United States?**  *Republican, Democrat* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **46** | **What is the political party of the President now?** *Republican* |  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **47** | **What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?** *Paul Ryan* |  |  |  | ✓ |

Rights and Responsibilities

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|  | ***Question*** | ***Emergent*** | ***Beginning*** | ***Intermediate*** | ***Advanced*** |
| **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 religion*  ▪ *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?** *18* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **55** | **What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?**  *vote*  ▪ *give an elected official your opinion on an issue*  *join a political party* ▪ *call Senators and Representatives*  *help with a campaign* ▪ *run for office*  *join a civic group*  ▪ *publicly support or oppose an issue or policy* *join a community group* ▪ *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?** *18* |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |

American History

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Question*** | ***Emergent*** | ***Beginning*** | ***Intermediate*** | ***Advanced*** |
| **58** | **What is one reason colonists came to America?**  *freedom*  ▪ *political liberty* ▪ *escape persecution*  *religious freedom*  ▪ *economic opportunity* ▪ *practice their religion* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **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*  ▪ *started the first free libraries* ▪ *writer of “Poor Richard’s Almanac”* |  | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **69** | **Who is the “Father of Our Country”?** *George Washington* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **70** | **Who was the first President?** *George Washington* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

The 1800s

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|  | ***Question*** | ***Emergent*** | ***Beginning*** | ***Intermediate*** | ***Advanced*** |
| **71** | **What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?**  *Louisiana Purchase* |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| **72** | **Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.**  *War of 1812*  ▪ *Mexican-American War*  ▪ *Civil War*  ▪ *Spanish-American War* |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| **73** | **Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.**  *Civil War* |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| **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* |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |

Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

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|  | ***Question*** | ***Emergent*** | ***Beginning*** | ***Intermediate*** | ***Advanced*** |
| **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?** *FDR, Franklin Rooselvelt* |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| **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* |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |

INTEGRATED CIVICS

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|  | ***Question*** | ***Emergent*** | ***Beginning*** | ***Intermediate*** | ***Advanced*** |
| **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* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **90** | **What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?**  *Atlantic* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **91** | **Name one U.S. territory**  *Puerto Rico*  ▪ *U.S. Virgin Islands* ▪ *American Samoa*  *Guam* ▪ *Northern Mariana Islands* |  |  | ✓ | ✓ |
| **92** | **Name one state that borders Canada.**  *Maine* ▪ *Vermont* ▪ *New York* ▪ *New Hampshire* ▪ *Ohio* *Michigan* ▪ *Minnesota* ▪ *Pennsylvania* ▪ *Montana* ▪ *Idaho* ▪ *Washington* ▪ *North Dakota* ▪ *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* *[Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

SYMBOLS

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Question*** | ***Emergent*** | ***Beginning*** | ***Intermediate*** | ***Advanced*** |
| **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 are 50 states* ▪ *because there is one star for each state*  ▪ *because each star represents a state* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| **98** | **What is the name of the national anthem?**  *The Star-Spangled Banner* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

HOLIDAYS

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ***Question*** | ***Emergent*** | ***Beginning*** | ***Intermediate*** | ***Advanced*** |
| **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* | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

Resources

* USCIS website: <https://www.uscis.gov/>
* Michigan Immigration Rights Center: <http://michiganimmigrant.org/>
* Americaslibrary.gov
* Goverment.mrdonn.org
* Ducksters.com
* Burlington English