

# 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. **GENERAL** requirements for naturalization call for the immigrant to:



★ For Form N-400 and to learn more about specific eligibility requirements for naturalization, visit [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) or call 1 800 375 5283

## Implementation Timeline

### Which version of the test to take?

USCIS began administering a redesigned (new) naturalization test on October 1, 2008. The following guidelines will determine whether naturalization applicants will take the old test or the redesigned (new) test.

#### An applicant who:

- Files\* the Application for Naturalization, Form N-400, **BEFORE** October 1, 2008, and is scheduled for his or her naturalization interview **ON or AFTER** October 1, 2008 up until October 1, 2009, can choose to take the old test or the redesigned (new) test.
- Files\* the Application for Naturalization, Form N-400, **ON or AFTER** October 1, 2008, will take the redesigned (new) test.
- Is scheduled for his or her naturalization interview **ON or AFTER** October 1, 2009, regardless of when he or she filed\* the Application for Naturalization, Form N-400, will take the redesigned (new) test.

**NOTE:** If an applicant fails the English and/or civics test during the first examination, the applicant will be required to take the same version of the test, old or redesigned (new), when the applicant is retested, even if the retest is scheduled on or after October 1, 2009.

For additional information about the old and redesigned (new) test, please visit <http://www.uscis.gov/citizenshiptest>.

\*The Application for Naturalization, Form N-400, is properly filed with USCIS on the date it is received by the appropriate USCIS location with signature, correct fee, and the form is completed according to instructions.



## Preparing for the Test

### What study materials are available and how can I find English language, civics, and/or citizenship classes?

The USCIS Office of Citizenship has developed a variety of study materials for the redesigned (new) naturalization test.

These materials include Civics Flash Cards, Vocabulary Flash Cards, Learn About the United States: Quick Civics Lessons, and translated versions of the civics questions available at <http://www.uscis.gov/newtest>.

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 (New) Test

### Background

In the interest of creating a more standardized, fair, and meaningful naturalization process, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) redesigned the naturalization test. The redesigned 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.

The major aim of the redesign process was 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.

For more information on the redesigned (new) naturalization test, please visit <http://www.uscis.gov/newtest>.



## The Redesigned (New) Naturalization Test

Office of Citizenship

# Components of the Redesigned (New) Naturalization Test

## Redesigned (New) Naturalization Test

### Civics Test

An applicant will be asked up to 10 questions from the list below. Applicants must answer correctly at least six of the 10 questions to pass the civics test.

#### 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?
  - How many U.S. Senators are there?
  - 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 now?\*
  - 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?
  - 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

#### Reading Vocabulary

Each reading test administered to an applicant contains no more than 3 sentences. Applicants must read 1 out of 3 sentences correctly to demonstrate an ability to read in English. To help applicants prepare, USCIS released a reading vocabulary list containing all the words found in the English reading portion of the redesigned (new) test. The content focuses on civics and history topics.

- PEOPLE**
- Abraham
  - Lincoln
  - George
  - Washington
- CIVICS**
- American flag
  - Bill of Rights
  - capital
  - citizen
  - city
  - Congress
  - country
  - Father of Our Country
  - government
  - President
  - right
  - Senators
  - state/states
  - White House
- VERBS**
- can
  - come
  - do/does
  - elects
  - have/has
  - is/are/was/be
  - lives/lived
  - meet
  - name
  - pay
  - vote
  - want
- OTHER (FUNCTION)**
- a
  - for
  - here
  - in
  - of
  - on
  - the
  - to
  - we

#### PLACES

- America
  - United States
  - U.S.
- HOLIDAYS**
- Presidents' Day
  - Memorial Day
  - Flag Day
  - Independence Day
  - Labor Day
  - Columbus Day
  - Thanksgiving
- OTHER (CONTENT)**
- colors
  - dollar bill
  - first
  - largest
  - many
  - most
  - north
  - one
  - people
  - second
  - south

#### Writing Test

#### Writing Vocabulary

Each writing test administered to an applicant contains no more than 3 sentences. Applicants must write 1 out of 3 sentences correctly in order to demonstrate an ability to write in English. To help applicants prepare, USCIS released a writing vocabulary list containing all the words found in the English writing portion of the redesigned (new) test. The content focuses on civics and history topics.

- PEOPLE**
- Adams
  - Lincoln
  - Washington
- CIVICS**
- American
  - Indians
  - capital
  - citizens
  - Civil War
  - Congress
  - Father of Our Country
  - flag
  - free
  - freedom of speech
  - President
  - right
  - Senators
  - state/states
  - White House
- HOLIDAYS**
- Presidents' Day
  - Memorial Day
  - Flag Day
  - Independence Day
  - Labor Day
  - Columbus Day
  - Thanksgiving
- VERBS**
- can
  - come
  - elect
  - have/has
  - is/was/be
  - lives/lived
  - meets
  - pay
  - vote
  - want
- OTHER (FUNCTION)**
- and
  - during
  - for
  - here
  - in
  - on
  - of
  - on
  - the
  - to
  - we
- PLACES**
- Alaska
  - California
  - Canada
  - Delaware
  - Mexico
  - New York City
  - United States
  - the
  - Washington
  - Washington, D.C.
- 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.