

100 QUESTIONS FOR THE GRADUATION-REQUIRED CIVICS EXAM

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A: Principles of American Democracy

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.

B: System of Government

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?* ▪ Mitch McConnell or Rand Paul
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. ▪ Kentucky's are Andy Barr, Thomas Massie, James Comer, Hal Rogers,

Brett Guthrie, John Yarmuth (Louisville)

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?* ▪ Joe Biden

29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now? ▪ Kamala Harris

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

40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now? ▪ Honorable 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? ▪ 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? ▪ Andy Beshear

44. What is the capital of your state? Frankfort

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? Democrat

47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now? Nancy Pelosi

C: Rights and Responsibilities

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?* ▪ 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)

AMERICAN HISTORY

A: Colonial Period and Independence

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

B: 1800s

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

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

C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

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

INTEGRATED CIVICS

A: Geography

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 [Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]

B: Symbols

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

C: Holidays

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