

Sample Civics Questions

1. What are the colors of our flag?
Red, white, and blue
2. What do the stars on the flag mean?
One for each state
3. How many stars are there on our flag?
50
4. What color are the stars on our flag?
White
5. How many stripes are there on our flag?
13
6. What do the stripes on the flag represent?
The first 13 states
7. What colors are the stripes on the flag?
Red and white
8. How many states are there in the Union (the United States)?
50
9. What do we celebrate on the 4th of July?
Independence Day
10. Independence Day celebrates independence from whom?
Great Britain
11. What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?
Great Britain
12. Who was the first president of the United States?
George Washington
13. Who is the President of the United States today?
George W. Bush*
14. Who is the Vice President of the United States today?
Richard (Dick) Cheney*
15. Who elects the President of the United States?
The Electoral College
16. Who becomes President if the President dies?
The Vice President
17. What is the Constitution?
The supreme law of the land
18. What do we call changes to the Constitution?
Amendments
19. How many changes, or amendments, are there to the Constitution?
27*
20. What are the three branches of our government?
Executive, Judicial, and Legislative
21. What is the legislative branch of our Government?
Congress
22. What makes up Congress?
The Senate and the House of Representatives
23. Who makes the Federal laws in the United States?
Congress
24. Who elects Congress?
The citizens of the United States
25. How many Senators are there in Congress?
There are 100 Senators in Congress, two from each state.
26. For how long do we elect each Senator?
Six years

*NOTE: The answer to questions marked with asterisks may change. Check to be sure you have the correct answer.

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(Continued)

27. Name two Senators from your state.
The answer to this question depends on where you live.
28. How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?
435
29. For how long do we elect each member of the House of Representatives?
Two years
30. Who is the head of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government?
The President
31. For how long is the President elected?
Four years
32. What is the highest part of the Judiciary Branch of our Government?
The Supreme Court
33. What are the duties of the Supreme Court?
To interpret and explain the laws
34. What is the supreme law of the United States?
The Constitution
35. What is the Bill of Rights?
The first ten amendments to the Constitution
36. What is the capital of the state you live in?
The answer to this question depends on the state where you live.
37. Who is the current Governor of the state you live in?
The answer to this question depends on where you live.
38. Who becomes President if both the President and Vice President die?
The Speaker of the House
39. Who is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?
John G. Roberts, Jr.*
40. What were the original 13 states?
Virginia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Georgia
41. Who said, "Give me liberty or give me death"?
Patrick Henry
42. Name some countries that were our enemies during World War II.
Germany, Italy, and Japan
43. What was the 49th state added to our Union (the United States)?
Alaska
44. How many full terms can a President serve?
Two
45. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?
A civil rights leader
46. What are some of the requirements to be eligible to become President?
A candidate for President must:
- **be a native-born, not naturalized, citizen,**
 - **be at least 35 years old, and**
 - **have lived in the U.S. for at least 14 years.**
47. Why are there 100 Senators in the United States Senate?
Each state elects two Senators.
48. Who nominates judges for the Supreme Court?
The President
49. How many Supreme Court Justices are there?
Nine
50. Why did the Pilgrims come to America?
To gain religious freedom

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(Continued)

51. What is the executive of a state government called?
The Governor
52. What is the head executive of a city government called?
The Mayor
53. What holiday was celebrated for the first time by American colonists?
Thanksgiving
54. Who was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence?
Thomas Jefferson
55. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
July 4, 1776
56. What are some of the basic beliefs of the Declaration of Independence?
That all men are created equal and have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
57. What is the national anthem of the United States?
The Star-Spangled Banner
58. Who wrote The Star-Spangled Banner?
Francis Scott Key
59. What is the minimum voting age in the United States?
18
60. Who signs bills into law?
The President
61. What is the highest court in the United States?
The Supreme Court
62. Who was President during the Civil War?
Abraham Lincoln
63. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
The Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves.
64. What special group advises the President?
The Cabinet
65. Which President is called the “Father of our Country”?
George Washington
66. Which President was the first Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Army and Navy?
George Washington
67. What was the 50th state to be added to our Union (the United States)?
Hawaii
68. Who helped the Pilgrims in America?
The American Indians/Native Americans
69. What is the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?
The Mayflower
70. What were the 13 original states of the United States called before they were states?
Colonies
71. What group has the power to declare war?
Congress
72. Name the amendments that guarantee or address voting rights.
15th, 19th, 24th and 26th
73. In what year was the Constitution written?
1787
74. What are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution called?
The Bill of Rights

Sample Civics Questions

(Continued)

75. Whose rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?
All people living in the United States
76. What is the introduction to the Constitution called?
The Preamble
77. Who meets in the U.S. Capitol building?
Congress
78. What is the name of the President's official home?
The White House
79. Where is the White House located?
Washington, DC
80. Name one right or freedom guaranteed by the first amendment.
The rights of freedom of religion, of speech, of the press, of assembly, and to petition the Government
81. Who is Commander-in-Chief of the United States military?
The President
82. In what month do we vote for the President?
November
83. In what month is the new President inaugurated?
January
84. How many times may a Senator or Congressman be re-elected?
There is no limit.
85. What are the two major political parties in the United States today?
The Democratic and Republican parties
86. What is the executive branch of our government?
The President, the Cabinet, and departments under the cabinet members
87. Where does freedom of speech come from?
The Bill of Rights
88. What U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services form is used to apply for naturalized citizenship?
Form N-400 (Application for Naturalization)
89. What kind of government does the United States have?
A Republic
90. Name one of the purposes of the United Nations.
For countries to discuss and try to resolve world problems or to provide economic aid to many countries
91. Name one benefit of being a citizen of the United States.
To obtain Federal government jobs, to travel with a U.S. passport, or to petition for close relatives to come to the United States to live
92. Can the Constitution be changed?
Yes
93. What is the most important right granted to United States citizens?
The right to vote
94. What is the White House?
The President's official home
95. What is the United States Capitol?
The place where Congress meets
96. How many branches are there in the United States government?
Three