

U.S. Citizenship Study Guide

185+ High-Yield Civics & English Concepts for the
Naturalization Test

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The 10-Point Interview Blueprint

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How to Use This Guide

Naturalization is the process by which a lawful permanent resident becomes a U.S. citizen. In the interview, a USCIS officer tests your English and your knowledge of U.S. history and government (civics). This guide builds the knowledge and study habits you need: it teaches the CONCEPTS behind the civics questions with explanations and memory aids, and it practices the English skills the test checks. It is an independent study aid - NOT an official publication and NOT a reprint of the official question list. USCIS publishes the official civics questions and answers free with MP3 audio, so pairing this guide with the free official materials is the strongest study plan.

Which test you take: if you filed your Form N-400 BEFORE October 20, 2025 you take the 2008 civics test (100-question bank, 10 asked, 6 correct). If you file ON OR AFTER October 20, 2025 you take the new 2025 civics test (128-question bank, 20 asked, 12 correct - the officer stops once you reach 12 correct or 9 wrong). Some answers depend on the officials who currently serve (President, your Senators, your Representative, Governor, and political parties), so before your interview always check the current names at uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates and learn the officials serving at the time of your interview.

Exam Overview: The Naturalization Test

To become a U.S. citizen through naturalization you file Form N-400, attend a biometrics appointment, and take an interview with a USCIS officer. The interview has two tested parts: (1) English - reading, writing, and speaking; and (2) Civics - U.S. history and government. Most interviews last 20-30 minutes.

Civics test versions: the 2025 test applies to N-400 applications filed on or after October 20, 2025. It has a 128-question bank covering the same themes as before (American Government, American History, Integrated Civics). The officer asks 20 questions; you must answer 12 correctly to pass, and the officer stops once you reach 12 correct answers or 9 incorrect answers. This is a 60% passing standard, the same as the 2020 test it is based on.

The older 2008 civics test still applies to applicants who filed BEFORE October 20, 2025. It has a 100-question bank; the officer asks 10 questions and you must answer 6 correctly. Regardless of version, the officer reads the question in English and you answer out loud. If you do not answer correctly on the first try, the officer repeats the question in a different way or asks a different question from the same topic.

English component: the officer listens to your speaking throughout the interview (answering questions about your application). You must also read aloud one of three sentences, and write one of three sentences the officer dictates. The reading and writing sentences use a fixed official vocabulary list. Literacy exemptions exist for age and disability; the 65+ special consideration lets you study a smaller 20-question civics bank and, if you meet the requirements, take the civics test in your chosen language with an interpreter.

Passing and next steps: if you pass the English and civics tests, the officer reviews your application, then (usually the same day or soon after) you attend the Oath of Allegiance ceremony and receive your Certificate of Naturalization. If you fail only part of the test, USCIS schedules a second interview (usually within 60-90 days) and you retake only the part you failed.

Part 2A: Civics - Principles of American Democracy (18 Concepts)

The ideas that found the government: the Constitution, the rule of law, rights, and the three branches.

#	Term	Key Facts	Memory Aid	Example
1	The Supreme Law of the Land	The Constitution is the supreme law of the United States. Every law, court decision, and official action must follow it; it outranks state laws and the president's orders.	Memory hook: SUPREME = the CONSTITUTION sits at the very top of the legal stack.	Asked: 'What is the supreme law of the land?' Answer: 'the Constitution.'
2	What the Constitution Does	The Constitution defines the government: it sets up the structure, lists the powers of each branch, and protects the basic rights of the people.	It is a rulebook for government AND a shield for citizens - think 'structure + rights'.	It creates three branches and protects speech, religion, and fair trials.
3	The First Words: "We the People"	The Preamble opens "We the People of the United States..." - meaning the government gets its power from the people, not from a king.	Remember: the people come FIRST - consent of the governed.	Asked: 'What are the first words of the Constitution?' Answer: 'We the People.'
4	An Amendment	An amendment is a change or addition to the Constitution. The Constitution has 27 amendments; the first ten are the Bill of Rights.	AMEND = change. Amendments change the Constitution.	The 13th Amendment changed the Constitution to end slavery.
5	The Bill of Rights	The first ten amendments protect individual rights: speech, religion, press,		

assembly,
petition,
weapons, trials,
punishments,
and more.

'Bill' = a list. Bill
of Rights = the
list of the first 10
amendments.

Asked: 'What do
we call the first
ten
amendments?'
Answer: 'the Bill

of Rights.'

6	One Right in the First Amendment	The First Amendment protects freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly (meeting peacefully), and petition (asking the government to fix problems).	Five freedoms: S-P-R-A-P (Speech, Press, Religion, Assembly, Petition).	A citizen may criticize the president publicly - that is free speech.
7	Freedom of Religion	You may practice any religion, or no religion, and the government may not establish an official religion. This protects all faiths equally.	Believe anything, or nothing - the government stays out of it.	A citizen can worship at a mosque, church, or synagogue, or not worship at all.
8	The Economic System	The United States has a capitalist / market economy: private individuals and businesses own property and decide what to make and sell; prices come from supply and demand.	Market = buyers and sellers decide; the government does not run the economy.	A clothing store sets its own prices because the U.S. uses a market economy.
9	The Rule of Law	The rule of law means EVERYONE - citizens, leaders, police, and the president - must obey the law. No one is above it.	Even the president obeys the law; 'no one is above the law.'	A judge can rule against a government official because the law applies to everyone.
10	The Three Branches	The government has three branches: Legislative (Congress - MAKES laws), Executive (the President - ENFORCES laws), and Judicial (the		

courts -
INTERPRETS
laws).

			Make / Enforce / Interpret - Congress makes, President enforces, courts interpret.	Congress passes a tax law; the IRS (executive) collects it; courts settle disputes about it.
11	Checks and Balances	Each branch can limit the others: the President can veto laws, Congress can		

override with 2/3,
and courts can
strike down
unconstitutional
laws.

A 'check' is one branch stopping another - the system prevents tyranny.	The President vetoes a bill, but Congress overrides the veto with a 2/3
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vote.

12	The Legislative Branch	Congress is the Legislative Branch. It is made of two parts: the Senate and the House of Representatives. It makes all federal laws, declares war, and controls federal spending.	Congress = the law-making branch; bicameral = two houses.	Asked: 'What are the two parts of Congress?' Answer: 'the Senate and the House of Representatives.'
13	The Executive Branch	The Executive Branch is led by the President, who enforces and carries out the laws. It includes the Cabinet, executive departments, and federal agencies.	Execute = carry out. The President executes the laws.	The President orders federal agencies to implement a new law.
14	The Judicial Branch	The Judicial Branch is the court system, headed by the Supreme Court. Courts interpret the law and decide if actions or laws violate the Constitution.	Judges interpret. The Supreme Court is the highest court.	The Supreme Court decides a case about whether a law is constitutional.
15	Vetoing a Bill	The President can veto (refuse to sign) a bill passed by Congress. Congress can override a veto with a 2/3 vote in each house, making it law without the President.	VETO = 'I forbid.' The President stops a bill unless 2/3 of both houses override.	Asked: 'Who vetoes bills?' Answer: 'the President.'
16	The Commander in Chief	The President is Commander in Chief of the military. The President directs the armed forces		

but only
Congress can
declare war.

In chief = at the
head. The
President heads
the military.

Asked: 'Who is
Commander in
Chief of the
military?'
Answer: 'the
President.'

17	Judicial Review	Judicial review lets the courts decide whether a law or government action is unconstitutional, and if so, strike it down. It comes from Marbury v. Madison (1803).	Review = check. Courts check laws against the Constitution.	A court rules that a city ordinance violates free speech and blocks it.
18	The Electoral College	The President is elected by the Electoral College, not by direct popular vote. Each state gets electors equal to its House seats plus its two Senators; 270 electoral votes win.	538 electors, win 270. Electors = House + Senate seats per state.	A candidate can win the national popular vote but lose the Electoral College.

Part 2B: Civics - System of Government (26 Concepts)

The structure of the U.S. government: Congress, the presidency, the courts, parties, and federalism - plus the current-officials answers.

#	Term	Key Facts	Memory Aid	Example
1	The U.S. Senate	The Senate is one house of Congress. There are 100 U.S. Senators - two from each state - and each serves a 6-year term. The Senate approves treaties and confirms appointments.	2 per state x 50 states = 100. Six-year terms.	Asked: 'How many U.S. senators are there?' Answer: '100.'
2	The House of Representatives	The House has 435 voting members, with seats divided among states by population. Representatives serve 2-year terms; all of them face election every 2 years.	Population decides House size; every House seat is up every 2 years.	Asked: 'How many voting members does the House have?' Answer: '435.'
3	Senate Terms vs House Terms	Senators serve 6 years, staggered so only about 1/3 face election every 2 years. House members serve 2 years. The key contrast: 6 vs 2.	Senate 6, House 2 - 'the House works twice as often.'	Your state's senator stays 6 years; your representative runs every 2.
4	Representative Qualifications	A U.S. Representative must be at least 25 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least 7 years, and live in the state they represent.	25 / 7 / live there. Recall: House is younger and newer - 25 and 7.	A 27-year-old citizen for 8 years who lives in Ohio can run for Ohio's House seat.

5	Senator Qualifications	A U.S. Senator must be at least 30 years old, a U.S. citizen for at least 9 years, and live in the state they represent.	30 / 9 / live there - one notch higher than the House (25 / 7).	A 35-year-old citizen for 10 years who lives in Texas can run for Senate.
6	Presidential Qualifications	The President must be a natural-born U.S. citizen, at least 35 years old, and a U.S. resident for at least 14 years.	Natural-born + 35 + 14 years living in the U.S.	A person born in the U.S., age 40, living here 20 years, qualifies.
7	The Cabinet	The Cabinet advises the President. It is made up of the Vice President and the heads (Secretaries) of the executive departments, like State, Defense, and Treasury.	Cabinet = advisors = department heads + VP.	The Secretary of State is a Cabinet member who advises on foreign affairs.
8	The Supreme Court	The Supreme Court is the highest court, with nine Justices (one Chief Justice and eight Associate Justices). Justices serve for life (until retirement, death, or removal).	Nine justices; they serve for life to stay independent of politics.	Asked: 'How many justices are on the Supreme Court?' Answer: 'nine.'
9	Judicial Review & the Courts	Federal courts, headed by the Supreme Court, interpret laws and decide if laws follow the Constitution. Lower federal courts include district and appeals courts.	The court pyramid: district (trial) -> appeals -> Supreme Court.	An appeals court reviews a district court decision about a federal law.

10	The President's Term	The President serves a 4-year term and is elected by the Electoral College. A person can be elected president at most twice (22nd Amendment).	4 years per term; maximum two terms.	The President is elected in November and inaugurated in January.
11	The Speaker of the House	The Speaker is the leader of the House of Representatives, chosen by the House. The Speaker is also THIRD in line to become President (after the VP).	After the Vice President, the Speaker takes over - the line: VP, Speaker, then Senate pro tempore.	If both the President and Vice President cannot serve, the Speaker of the House becomes President.
12	Senate Approval Powers	The Senate approves presidential appointments (Cabinet, judges, ambassadors) and ratifies treaties with a 2/3 vote.	The Senate says yes to people and pacts: appointments + treaties.	The Senate confirms a nominee for the Supreme Court.
13	Federalism: National vs State Powers	The federal government handles national matters (defense, currency, foreign affairs, interstate commerce). State governments handle local matters (education, roads, public safety, marriage).	Federal = whole country; state = inside the state's borders.	Printing money is federal; running public schools is a state job.
14	The Governor	The Governor is the head of the executive branch of a STATE government (like		

the President at the national level).

A governor leads one state; the president leads the country.

Asked: 'Who is the Governor of your state?' - learn your state's current governor.

15	The Capital of Your State	Every state has a capital city where the state government meets. This answer depends on YOUR state - memorize it before the interview.	Flashcard your own state capital; it is a guaranteed current-answer question.	If you live in Arizona, the capital is Phoenix.
16	The Two Major Political Parties	The two major political parties are the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. They nominate candidates and organize around different platforms.	Dems and Repubs - the two big parties that dominate elections.	Asked: 'What are the two major political parties?' Answer: 'Democratic and Republican.'
17	A Political Party	A political party is an organized group of people who share similar ideas about how the country should be run and work to elect their candidates.	A party = a team with a shared platform that runs candidates.	A party holds a primary to choose its nominee for an office.
18	The Senate Pro Tempore	The Senate pro tempore presides over the Senate when the Vice President is absent; the position usually goes to the longest-serving senator of the majority party.	TEMP = temporary. Pro tempore = 'for the time being', standing in for the VP.	The pro tempore is fourth in the presidential line of succession.
19	State and Federal Courts	State courts handle state-law cases and federal courts handle federal-law cases; both exist separately. The Supreme Court		

can review both types on appeal.

			Two tracks: state courts for state law, federal courts for federal law.	A state robbery trial runs in state court; a federal tax case runs in federal court.
20	The President and the Parties	Most presidents are members of the Democratic or Republican		

Party. This is a
CURRENT
answer - you
must know which
party the current
president
belongs to.

Check USCIS
test updates
before the
interview; never

guess a party.

Before the
interview,
confirm the
current

president's party.

21	Name Your Representative	You must know the name of your U.S. Representative (your House district member) and your two U.S. Senators. These are CURRENT answers that change at every election.	Use a site like house.gov and senate.gov; practice saying the names aloud.	Memorize: 'My representative is [name]; my senators are [name] and [name].'
22	Bills and Laws	A bill becomes a law through Congress: introduction, committee, debate and vote in both houses, then the President signs it (or Congress overrides a veto).	Both houses must pass it, then the President signs - or a 2/3 override.	A tax bill passes the House and Senate, the President signs it, and it becomes law.
23	The Chief Justice	The Chief Justice leads the Supreme Court and presides over presidential impeachment trials in the Senate. Appointed for life, like other justices.	Chief = head of the nine; presides when the Senate tries an impeached president.	The Chief Justice administers the oath of office at an inauguration.
24	Taxation Powers	Congress has the power to levy taxes and spend federal money. 'No taxation without representation' - only the people's elected Congress taxes.	Taxes start in the House and need Congress's approval.	A federal income tax is valid because Congress (the people's branch) passed it.
25	The Vice President	The Vice President is the second-highest office, takes over if the President cannot serve, and presides		

over the Senate
(casting
tie-breaking
votes).

The VP is a
heartbeat away
from the
presidency and
runs the Senate.

The Vice
President breaks
a 50-50 tie in the
Senate.

26	Impeachment	Impeachment is the process to remove a federal official (including the President) for serious misconduct. The House impeaches (accuses); the Senate holds the trial and can remove by 2/3.	House accuses, Senate decides. It is a political process, not a criminal one.	The House impeaches; the Senate votes; removal needs a 2/3 Senate majority.
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Part 2C: Civics - Rights & Responsibilities (16 Concepts)

What citizenship gives you and what it asks of you: the amendments that protect rights, and the duties of a citizen.

#	Term	Key Facts	Memory Aid	Example
1	The 13th Amendment	The 13th Amendment (1865) ended slavery in the United States. It is one of the Reconstruction amendments.	13 = the unlucky number for slavery - it abolished it.	Asked: 'What did the 13th Amendment do?' Answer: 'It ended slavery (abolished slavery).'
2	The 14th Amendment	The 14th Amendment (1868) defined citizenship: all people born or naturalized in the U.S. are citizens, and all are entitled to equal protection of the laws.	14 = born here = citizen; equal protection for everyone.	Asked: 'What did the 14th Amendment do?' Answer: 'It granted citizenship and equal protection.'
3	The 15th Amendment	The 15th Amendment (1870) gave the right to vote regardless of race or color (barring voting discrimination by race).	15 = male + race: no one denied the vote because of race.	Asked: 'What did the 15th Amendment do?' Answer: 'It gave Black men (all men regardless of race) the right to vote.'
4	The 19th Amendment	The 19th Amendment (1920) gave women the right to vote nationwide.	19 = women won the vote in 1920.	Asked: 'What did the 19th Amendment do?' Answer: 'It gave women the right to vote.'
5	The 24th Amendment	The 24th Amendment (1964) abolished poll taxes - fees you had to pay to vote, which had kept poor people, especially Black southerners, from voting.	24 = no money barrier: the poll tax is banned.	Asked: 'What did the 24th Amendment do?' Answer: 'It eliminated poll taxes.'

6	The 26th Amendment	The 26th Amendment (1971) lowered the voting age to 18 - citizens 18 and older can vote.	26 = 18-year-olds vote (age 26 is close to 18? just memorize: $18 + 8 = 26$).	Asked: 'What did the 26th Amendment do?' Answer: 'It lowered the voting age to 18.'
7	Voting in Federal Elections	Citizens 18 and older may register and vote in federal elections. Voting is a right and a responsibility - it is how citizens 'consent' to their government.	18+ = vote. Register before Election Day.	Asked: 'When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?' - April 15; voting registration deadlines vary by state.
8	The Duty to Serve on a Jury	Citizens must serve on a jury when called. Trial by jury is a constitutional right in criminal cases, and jury service is a civic duty.	Jury duty = showing up when summoned; it protects fair trials.	A citizen receives a jury summons and must respond.
9	The Duty to Obey the Law	Citizens must obey all federal, state, and local laws. Lawfulness is part of 'good moral character' that naturalization requires.	Obey the law = the basic deal of citizenship.	Paying a traffic ticket and filing honest taxes are obeying the law.
10	The Duty to Pay Taxes	Citizens must pay federal, state, and local taxes - including income taxes. Taxes fund roads, schools, courts, and the military.	Taxes = the price of the services government provides.	Asked: 'Why do citizens pay taxes?' Answer: 'to pay for government services.'
11	The Duty to Defend the Country	All men aged 18-26 must register with the Selective Service System in case of a draft. Registering is a civic duty;		

women do not
currently register.

Men 18-26, register for Selective Service - even if the draft never happens.	An 18-year-old male citizen registers online with the Selective Service.
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12	Free Speech in Practice	Free speech protects your right to speak your mind, including criticizing the government - but it does not protect fraud, threats, or inciting violence.	You can criticize the president; you cannot falsely shout 'fire' in a theater.	A citizen may write a letter criticizing a new law - protected speech.
13	The Right to a Fair Trial	The 6th and 7th Amendments guarantee fair trials: a speedy public trial, an impartial jury, and a lawyer for the accused.	Trial rights = speedy, public, jury, lawyer.	Asked: 'What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?' is history - for trials, think 6th/7th Amendments.
14	Petitioning the Government	The First Amendment right of petition lets you formally ask the government to fix a problem or change a policy - collecting signatures or filing a complaint.	Petition = a formal request to the government.	Citizens sign a petition asking the city council to add a crosswalk.
15	Rights vs Responsibilities	Rights are what you may do (speech, religion, vote, jury trial). Responsibilities are what you should do (obey the law, pay taxes, serve on juries, participate, defend the country).	Rights = freedoms you hold; responsibilities = duties you owe.	Voting is both a right and a responsibility; paying taxes is a responsibility.
16	Good Moral Character	Naturalization requires 'good moral character' for the five years (or three, for spouses) before filing - no serious crimes, no fraud, and honest tax and immigration		

dealings.

The character window = your recent conduct; serious crimes disqualify.

An applicant with a major felony conviction may be denied for lack of good moral character.

Part 2D: Civics - American History: Colonial Period & Independence (18 Concepts)

The founding story: the 13 colonies, the Declaration of Independence, the Revolution, and the Constitution.

#	Term	Key Facts	Memory Aid	Example
1	The 13 Colonies	The 13 original colonies were settled by Britain along the Atlantic coast. They later became the first 13 states of the United States.	13 colonies -> 13 stripes -> first 13 states.	Asked: 'Why are there 13 stripes on the flag?' Answer: 'for the 13 original colonies.'
2	Why the Colonists Left Britain	Colonists came for religious freedom, economic opportunity, and to escape strict governments in Europe.	Three reasons: religion, money, freedom from tyranny.	The Pilgrims fled England for religious freedom.
3	The Declaration of Independence	The Declaration of Independence (July 4, 1776) declared the colonies free from Britain and stated that people have natural rights (life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness) and that government gets power from the consent of the governed.	July 4, 1776 = the birthday of the United States.	Asked: 'When is Independence Day?' Answer: 'July 4th.'
4	Who Wrote the Declaration	Thomas Jefferson was the main author of the Declaration of Independence, written in Philadelphia in 1776.	Jefferson = the pen of the Declaration.	Asked: 'Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?' Answer: 'Thomas Jefferson.'

5	The Congress That Declared Independence	The Continental Congress (meeting in Philadelphia) adopted the Declaration of Independence in July 1776.	The Continental Congress declared independence.	Asked: 'Where was the Declaration signed?' - Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
6	Three Reasons the Colonists Fought	The colonists fought the British for: (1) taxation without representation, (2) British troops in their houses (quartering), and (3) restrictions on trade and self-government.	Taxes + troops in homes + trade limits - three 'freedoms' lost.	Asked: 'Why did the colonists fight the British?' - high taxes, no representation, British troops at home.
7	The American Revolution	The Revolutionary War (1775-1783) was fought against Britain and won independence. The war ended with the Treaty of Paris in 1783.	Revolution = the war that made the U.S. a country, 1775-1783.	George Washington led the Continental Army to victory.
8	George Washington	George Washington was the commander of the Continental Army and the FIRST President of the United States; he is called the Father of His Country.	First in war, first in peace, first president - Washington.	Asked: 'Who was the first President?' Answer: 'George Washington.'
9	The Constitution of the United States	The U.S. Constitution was written in 1787 in Philadelphia and replaced the weak Articles of Confederation. It created the stronger federal government we have today.	1787 = the Constitution is signed in Philadelphia.	Asked: 'When was the Constitution written?' Answer: '1787.'

10	The Constitutional Convention	Delegates met at the Constitutional Convention in Philadelphia in 1787 to write the Constitution. It is also called the Philadelphia Convention.	Convention = the 1787 Philadelphia meeting that wrote the Constitution.	Asked: 'Where was the Constitution written?' Answer: 'Philadelphia.'
11	The Federalist Papers	The Federalist Papers were essays written by Hamilton, Madison, and Jay to persuade the states to ratify the Constitution.	Federalist = 'yes to the strong new Constitution' essays.	Asked: 'The Federalist Papers supported what?' Answer: 'the Constitution's ratification.'
12	Federalists vs Anti-Federalists	Federalists supported a strong national government under the Constitution; Anti-Federalists feared it gave the central government too much power and demanded a Bill of Rights.	Anti = against a strong center, and the Bill of Rights was the compromise.	The Bill of Rights was added to win over the Anti-Federalists.
13	The Articles of Confederation	The first U.S. government (Articles of Confederation) was too weak - no power to tax or enforce laws - so the Constitution replaced it.	Weak first try, stronger second try = the Constitution (1787).	Because the Articles could not tax, the national government could not pay its bills.
14	James Madison	James Madison is called the Father of the Constitution for his central role in drafting it and the Bill of Rights.	Madison = Father of the Constitution + author of the Bill of Rights.	Asked: 'Who is called the Father of the Constitution?' Answer: 'James Madison.'
15	The Bill of Rights Debate	The Bill of Rights (first 10 amendments, 1791)		

guarantees
individual rights
and was the
compromise that
helped ratify the
Constitution.

Rights listed = the promise that calmed the Anti-Federalists.	The First Amendment's five freedoms open the Bill of
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Rights.

16	Benjamin Franklin	Benjamin Franklin was a Founding Father, inventor, printer, and diplomat - famous for the Franklin stove, bifocals, and Poor Richard's Almanack.	Franklin = the scientist-founder who helped draft the Declaration and Constitution.	Asked: 'What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?' - the Franklin stove / bifocals / Poor Richard's Almanack.
17	The Treaty of Paris (1783)	The Treaty of Paris (1783) ended the Revolutionary War and recognized the United States as an independent nation.	1783 = Britain admits the U.S. is free.	The war that began in 1775 ended with the 1783 treaty.
18	Life, Liberty & the Pursuit of Happiness	The Declaration says these are unalienable rights - they cannot be taken away by government; government exists to protect them.	Three rights: life, liberty, pursuit-of-happiness.	Asked: 'What does the Declaration say about rights?' - people have rights government must protect.

Part 2E: Civics - American History: The 1800s (16 Concepts)

Westward expansion, the Civil War, slavery and its end, and the amendments that rebuilt the nation.

#	Term	Key Facts	Memory Aid	Example
1	The Louisiana Purchase	The U.S. bought the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803, doubling the size of the country and opening the West.	1803 + France = land doubled.	Asked: 'What territory did the U.S. buy from France?' Answer: 'the Louisiana Territory.'
2	Lewis and Clark	Meriwether Lewis and William Clark led an expedition (1804-1806) across the Louisiana Territory to the Pacific Ocean to map the West.	Lewis & Clark = the map-makers to the Pacific.	Asked: 'Who explored the Louisiana Territory?' Answer: 'Lewis and Clark.'
3	The Transcontinental Railroad	The transcontinental railroad (completed 1869) linked the East and West coasts by rail, speeding settlement, trade, and travel.	1869 = one rail line coast to coast.	Asked: 'What was the transcontinental railroad?' - a railroad spanning the continent, built in the 1860s.
4	The Civil War	The Civil War (1861-1865) was fought between the Northern states (Union) and the Southern states (Confederacy), mainly over slavery and states' rights. The Union won, preserving the United States.	Union vs Confederacy, 1861-1865; the nation stayed together.	Asked: 'What was one important thing Abraham Lincoln did?' - led the U.S. during the Civil War.

5	The Union & the Confederacy	The Union = the federal government and the Northern states that stayed loyal. The Confederacy = the 11 Southern states that seceded.	Union = one nation; Confederacy = the breakaway South.	Asked: 'Who fought in the Civil War?' Answer: 'the Union (North) vs the Confederacy (South).'
6	Slavery in the 1800s	Slavery was legal in much of the South, where plantations relied on enslaved labor; the conflict over slavery's expansion drove the nation apart.	The 1860s fight = slavery's future; the 13th Amendment ended it.	Asked: 'Why was there a Civil War?' - over slavery, states' rights, and secession.
7	Abraham Lincoln	Abraham Lincoln was the 16th President, led the nation through the Civil War, issued the Emancipation Proclamation, and was assassinated in 1865.	Lincoln = 16th + Civil War + freed the enslaved in rebel states.	Asked: 'Who was President during the Civil War?' Answer: 'Abraham Lincoln.'
8	The Emancipation Proclamation	Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation (1863) declared enslaved people in the Confederate states free; the 13th Amendment then ended slavery everywhere.	1863 = 'free in rebel states'; 1865 = free in all the nation.	Asked: 'What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?' - it freed enslaved people in the Confederacy.
9	The 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments	The Reconstruction amendments: 13th ended slavery, 14th granted citizenship and equal protection, 15th protected voting regardless		

of race.

10	Frederick Douglass	Frederick Douglass was a formerly enslaved man
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13 free, 14 citizen, 15 vote - the 'Reconstruction set.'	Slavery ends -> citizenship defined -> voting protected: the order makes the story.
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who became a leader of the abolition movement (to end slavery) and a champion of equal rights.

Douglass = abolitionist = fought to end slavery.	Asked: 'What did Frederick Douglass do?' - he fought to end
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slavery.

11	Harriet Tubman	Harriet Tubman escaped slavery and helped others escape through the Underground Railroad; later she served the Union in the Civil War.	Tubman = conductor on the Underground Railroad, freeing enslaved people.	Asked: 'What did Harriet Tubman do?' - helped enslaved people escape to freedom.
12	The Underground Railroad	The Underground Railroad was a secret network of routes and safe houses helping enslaved people escape to free states and Canada.	Underground = hidden; railroad = routes north to freedom.	A 'station master' hid runaways in a barn on the route.
13	Susan B. Anthony	Susan B. Anthony was a leader of the women's suffrage movement who fought for women's right to vote (won with the 19th Amendment, 1920).	Anthony = women's right to vote.	Asked: 'What did Susan B. Anthony do?' - she fought for women's suffrage.
14	The Women's Suffrage Movement	The suffrage movement won women the right to vote with the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920.	Suffrage = the right to vote; 1920 = women win it.	The 19th Amendment is the 'women vote' amendment.
15	Westward Expansion	In the 1800s, settlers moved west across the continent - railroads, gold rushes, and land laws pushed the border to the Pacific, often displacing Native peoples.	1800s = the century the U.S. stretched coast to coast.	Asked: 'Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s' - the Civil War, the War of 1812, the Mexican-American War.

16	Two Wars of the 1800s	Key 1800s conflicts besides the Civil War: the War of 1812 (against Britain) and the Mexican-American War (1846-1848), which added the Southwest.	1812 = Britain again; 1846 = Mexico, adding the Southwest.	Asked: 'Name one war fought by the U.S. in the 1800s' - Civil War, War of 1812, or Mexican-American War.
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Part 2F: Civics - American History: Recent American History (22 Concepts)

The 1900s and 2000s: the world wars, the Cold War, 9/11, the civil rights movement, and other key people and events.

#	Term	Key Facts	Memory Aid	Example
1	World War I	The U.S. entered World War I in 1917 on the side of the Allies (Britain, France, Russia and others) against Germany and its allies; the war ended in 1918.	WWI: U.S. joins 1917, 'the war to end all wars' ends 1918.	Asked: 'Name one war fought by the U.S. in the 1900s' - WWI is a correct answer.
2	The United States in WWII	The U.S. fought in World War II (1941-1945) as one of the Allies - with Britain and the Soviet Union - against the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, Japan).	Allies = Britain, Soviet Union, U.S.; Axis = Germany, Italy, Japan.	Asked: 'Who was the enemy of the U.S. during WWII?' - Germany, Italy, and Japan.
3	Pearl Harbor	Japan attacked the U.S. naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on December 7, 1941, pulling the U.S. into World War II.	December 7, 1941 = the U.S. enters WWII.	Asked: 'Why did the U.S. enter WWII?' - Japan attacked Pearl Harbor.
4	Allies in WWII	The Allies in WWII were the countries fighting the Axis: primarily the United States, Great Britain (U.K.), and the Soviet Union.	Allies: U.S., Britain, Soviet Union - the three big 'A' team.	Asked: 'Who were the Allies in WWII?' - Britain, Soviet Union, and the U.S.
5	The Cold War	The Cold War (1947-1991) was a long rivalry between the U.S. and the Soviet Union - no direct large-scale		

fighting, but
proxy wars, an
arms race, and
the space race.

Cold = not hot
war; U.S. vs
Soviet Union,
1947-1991.

Asked: 'What
was the Cold
War?' - a period
of rivalry
between the U.S.
and Soviet
Union.

6	The End of the Cold War	The Cold War ended around 1991 when the Soviet Union dissolved. The U.S. and its allies had worked to contain Soviet influence.	1991 = Soviet Union falls, Cold War ends.	Asked: 'When did the Cold War end?' Answer: 'around 1991.'
7	The Korean War	The Korean War (1950-1953) was fought between North Korea (backed by the Soviet Union/China) and South Korea (backed by the U.S. and UN forces).	Korea split: North vs South, 1950-1953, U.S. on the South's side.	Asked: 'Name one war fought by the U.S. in the 1900s' - the Korean War is correct.
8	The Vietnam War	The Vietnam War (1955-1975) saw the U.S. support South Vietnam against communist North Vietnam; U.S. forces withdrew and Vietnam was unified.	Vietnam = Cold War-era conflict in Southeast Asia.	Asked: 'Name one war fought by the U.S. in the 1900s' - Vietnam is correct.
9	The Persian Gulf War	The Persian Gulf War (1990-1991) was fought by a U.S.-led coalition to push Iraq out of Kuwait.	1990-91 = Iraq invaded Kuwait; the coalition pushed it back.	Asked: 'Name one war fought by the U.S. in the 1900s' - the Gulf War is correct.
10	September 11, 2001	On September 11, 2001, terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon; the U.S. responded by launching the global War on Terror.	9/11 = the 2001 attacks; the War on Terror followed.	Asked: 'What major event happened on September 11, 2001?' - terrorist attacks on the U.S.
11	Martin Luther King Jr.	Martin Luther King Jr. was a Baptist minister and civil rights leader who		

fought for equality and racial justice through nonviolent protest; he gave the 'I Have a Dream' speech (1963).

MLK = nonviolent civil rights leader; dream = equality.

Asked: 'What did Martin Luther King Jr. do?' - he fought for civil rights and

equality.

12	The Civil Rights Movement	The civil rights movement of the 1950s-1960s fought segregation and discrimination, winning the Civil Rights Act (1964) and the Voting Rights Act (1965).	Movement -> laws: 1964 Civil Rights, 1965 Voting Rights.	Asked: 'What movement tried to end racial discrimination?' - the civil rights movement.
13	Rosa Parks	Rosa Parks refused to give up her bus seat to a white passenger in Montgomery, Alabama (1955), helping spark the bus boycott and the civil rights movement.	Parks + bus seat = the 1955 spark of the movement.	Asked: 'What did Rosa Parks do?' - she refused to give up her seat, spurring the boycott.
14	Dwight Eisenhower	Dwight Eisenhower was a WWII general and the 34th President; he ordered federal troops to enforce school desegregation in Little Rock and built the interstate highway system.	Eisenhower = general-president; interstates + Little Rock enforcement.	Asked: 'Name one of the two longest rivers in the U.S.' is geography; Eisenhower = the interstate president.
15	Theodore Roosevelt	Theodore Roosevelt (26th President, early 1900s) was known for trust-busting, conservation (national parks), and the Panama Canal.	Teddy = trust-buster and park-preserved.	Asked: 'Name one U.S. president from the 1900s' - Theodore Roosevelt is correct.
16	Franklin D. Roosevelt	Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR, 32nd President) led the U.S. through the Great Depression with		

the New Deal
and through
most of World
War II.

FDR = New Deal
+ WWII
president.

Asked: 'Who was
President during
the Great
Depression and
WWII?' - Franklin
D. Roosevelt.

17	The Great Depression	The Great Depression (1929-1941) was the deepest economic crisis in U.S. history, starting with the 1929 stock market crash; the New Deal created relief and recovery programs.	1929 crash -> Depression -> New Deal.	Asked: 'What did the New Deal do?' - it created jobs and relief programs during the Depression.
18	The New Deal	The New Deal was FDR's package of programs (Social Security, WPA jobs, FDIC bank insurance) to relieve, recover, and reform the economy.	New Deal = FDR's jobs + safety-net programs.	Social Security (1935) still pays retirement benefits today.
19	The Space Race	The U.S. and the Soviet Union raced to explore space during the Cold War; the U.S. landed astronauts on the moon in 1969 (Apollo 11).	1969 = moon landing; the Space Race = Cold War competition.	Asked: 'Name one American innovation' - the moon landing, the airplane, or the internet.
20	American Inventions	Famous American innovations: the airplane (Wright brothers), the light bulb (Edison), the internet, the moon landing, the smartphone.	Invent = create; the U.S. gave the world flight, light, and the internet.	Asked: 'Name one American innovation' - the airplane is a fine answer.
21	Two American Wars of the 1900s	The two world wars (WWI and WWII), plus Korea, Vietnam, and the Gulf War, were the major U.S. conflicts of the 1900s.	1900s wars: WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf - pick any two.	Asked: 'Name two wars fought by the U.S. in the 1900s' - WWII and the Vietnam War.

22	The War on Terror	After 9/11, the U.S. launched the War on Terror, including military action in Afghanistan and Iraq to fight terrorist networks.	9/11 -> War on Terror -> Afghanistan and Iraq.	Asked: 'What did the U.S. do after the 9/11 attacks?' - it launched the War on Terror.
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Part 2G: Civics - Integrated Civics: Geography (12 Concepts)

Oceans, borders, the capital, the states, and U.S. territories - the geography answers on both tests.

#	Term	Key Facts	Memory Aid	Example
1	The Atlantic Ocean	The Atlantic Ocean is on the EAST coast of the United States.	East = Atlantic; think 'Atlantic City is on the East Coast.'	Asked: 'What ocean is on the East Coast?' Answer: 'the Atlantic Ocean.'
2	The Pacific Ocean	The Pacific Ocean is on the WEST coast of the United States.	West = Pacific; 'P' for Pacific and Pacific is Big on the West.	Asked: 'What ocean is on the West Coast?' Answer: 'the Pacific Ocean.'
3	Canada	Canada is the country to the NORTH of the United States; the two share the world's longest international border.	North = Canada (cold = north).	Asked: 'What country is north of the U.S.?' Answer: 'Canada.'
4	Mexico	Mexico is the country to the SOUTH of the United States.	South = Mexico (warm = south).	Asked: 'What country is south of the U.S.?' Answer: 'Mexico.'
5	Washington, D.C.	Washington, D.C. is the capital of the United States, where Congress, the President, and the Supreme Court are located.	D.C. = the federal capital, not part of any state.	Asked: 'What is the capital of the United States?' Answer: 'Washington, D.C.'
6	The 50 States	The United States has 50 states. Each state has its own government, and states cannot make laws that conflict with federal law.	Fifty states - the flag's 50 stars count them.	Asked: 'How many states are there?' Answer: '50.'
7	The Last Two States	Alaska and Hawaii became states in 1959 - the 49th and		

50th states, both
outside the
contiguous U.S.

1959 = Alaska +
Hawaii join; 'the
far-flung two.'

Asked: 'Name
one state that
borders Canada'
- Alaska, New

York, or
Michigan.

8	U.S. Territories	The U.S. territories include Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands - possessions, not states.	TERRITORIES = island possessions: Puerto Rico, Guam, USVI, American Samoa, Northern Marianas.	Asked: 'Name one U.S. territory' - Puerto Rico or Guam.
9	Puerto Rico	Puerto Rico is a U.S. territory in the Caribbean; its people are U.S. citizens but it is not a state and does not have voting representation in Congress.	PR = territory, citizens, not a state.	Asked: 'Name one U.S. territory' Answer: 'Puerto Rico.'
10	The Mississippi River	The Mississippi River and the Missouri River are the two longest rivers in the United States.	MISS-issippi and MISSOURI - both start with M-I-S, both the longest.	Asked: 'Name one of the two longest rivers in the U.S.' - the Mississippi.
11	The Missouri River	The Missouri River flows from Montana to the Mississippi, making it the longest river in the U.S. (with the Mississippi a close second).	Missouri = longest; Mississippi = iconic main stem.	Asked: 'Name one of the two longest rivers' - the Missouri River.
12	The Capital of Your State	The capital of your state is a current-answers question - memorize YOUR state's capital and practice saying it in English.	Flashcard: [State] -> [Capital]; drill it daily before the interview.	Live in Nevada? The capital is Carson City.

Part 2H: Civics - Integrated Civics: Symbols (10 Concepts)

The flag, the anthem, the Statue of Liberty, and the bald eagle - the symbols every citizen should know.

#	Term	Key Facts	Memory Aid	Example
1	The 50 Stars on the Flag	The 50 stars on the U.S. flag stand for the 50 states.	Stars = states; stripes = original colonies.	Asked: 'Why does the flag have 50 stars?' Answer: 'for the 50 states.'
2	The 13 Stripes on the Flag	The 13 stripes on the U.S. flag stand for the 13 original colonies.	13 stripes = 13 colonies.	Asked: 'Why does the flag have 13 stripes?' Answer: 'for the original 13 colonies.'
3	The Names of the Flag	The U.S. flag is called the Stars and Stripes, and also Old Glory and the Star-Spangled Banner.	Three names: Stars and Stripes, Old Glory, Star-Spangled Banner.	Asked: 'What are the colors of the flag?' - red, white, and blue with 50 stars.
4	The Star-Spangled Banner	The Star-Spangled Banner is the national anthem, written by Francis Scott Key during the War of 1812 about the flag over Fort McHenry.	Anthem = the song about the flag, from 1814.	Asked: 'What is the name of the national anthem?' Answer: 'The Star-Spangled Banner.'
5	Independence Day	Independence Day is July 4 - the day the U.S. celebrates the Declaration of Independence (1776).	July 4 = birthday of the nation.	Asked: 'What do we celebrate on July 4?' - independence from Britain.
6	The Statue of Liberty	The Statue of Liberty (in New York Harbor) was a gift from France and symbolizes freedom and opportunity; it		

welcomed
immigrants
arriving by sea.

France gave
Liberty; it says
'give me your
tired, your poor.'

Asked: 'What
does the Statue
of Liberty
represent?' -
freedom and
opportunity.

7	The Bald Eagle	The bald eagle is the national bird and a national symbol of the United States, appearing on the Great Seal.	Eagle = the U.S. national bird; it is on the seal.	Asked: 'What is the national bird?' Answer: 'the bald eagle.'
8	The Pledge of Allegiance	The Pledge of Allegiance is the oath of loyalty to the flag and the republic recited by citizens.	Allegiance = loyalty; pledge = promise.	The Pledge ends: 'one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.'
9	The National Motto	The national motto is 'In God We Trust', printed on U.S. currency.	Motto on money: 'In God We Trust'.	Asked: 'What is the motto of the U.S.?' Answer: 'In God We Trust.'
10	The Great Seal	The Great Seal of the United States shows the bald eagle holding an olive branch and arrows, with the motto E Pluribus Unum ('Out of many, one').	Seal = the eagle; 'Out of many, one' = one nation from many states and peoples.	Asked: 'What is one national U.S. symbol?' - the bald eagle, the flag, or the Statue of Liberty.

Part 2I: Civics - Integrated Civics: Holidays (8 Concepts)

The federal holidays on the civics tests, with the dates and meanings.

#	Term	Key Facts	Memory Aid	Example
1	New Year's Day	January 1 - the first day of the year and a federal holiday.	Jan 1 = the calendar turns.	Asked: 'When is New Year's Day?' Answer: 'January 1.'
2	Martin Luther King Jr. Day	The third Monday in January - honors the civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.	MLK Day = 3rd Monday of January.	Asked: 'When do we celebrate MLK Day?' - third Monday in January.
3	Presidents' Day	The third Monday in February - honors George Washington (and all presidents).	Feb 3rd Monday = Washington's birthday tradition.	Asked: 'When is Presidents' Day?' - the third Monday in February.
4	Memorial Day	The last Monday in May - remembers the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.	Memorial = remembering the war dead; last Monday of May.	Asked: 'What do we celebrate on Memorial Day?' - those who died in military service.
5	Independence Day	July 4 - celebrates the Declaration of Independence and the birth of the United States in 1776.	July 4 = independence, the biggest summer holiday.	Asked: 'When is Independence Day?' Answer: 'July 4.'
6	Labor Day	The first Monday in September - honors American workers and the labor movement.	Labor = workers; first Monday of September.	Asked: 'What do we celebrate on Labor Day?' - the contributions of American workers.
7	Veterans Day	November 11 - honors all U.S. military veterans, living and dead, who served the country.	Veterans = everyone who served; November 11 (was Armistice Day).	Asked: 'When is Veterans Day?' Answer: 'November 11.'
8	Thanksgiving	The fourth Thursday in November - a harvest holiday		

of gratitude
celebrated with
family and food.

Turkey + fourth
Thursday of
November =
Thanksgiving.

Asked: 'What do
we celebrate on
Thanksgiving?' -
gratitude for the

harvest and
blessings.

Part 3A: English - Reading & Writing Vocabulary (14 Concepts)

The officer dictates or asks you to read sentences built from the official vocabulary lists. Practice reading and writing THESE words.

#	Term	Key Facts	Memory Aid	Example
1	The Reading Test	You must read aloud ONE of three sentences correctly. The officer lets you try each of the three; you pass if you read one without major mistakes.	Read slowly and clearly; sound out the words - the officer counts meaning, not perfect accent.	Sentence: 'What is your name?' - read it exactly as written.
2	The Writing Test	The officer dictates ONE of three sentences and you must write it correctly. You can ask the officer to repeat the sentence.	Write the words you hear; check spelling and capital letters.	Dictation: 'The President lives in the White House.' - write it fully.
3	People Vocabulary	Words you must recognize and write: Adams, Lincoln, Washington; CANADIAN, AMERICAN, INDIAN, ALASKAN; senators, presidents, citizens.	Practice writing: president, senator, citizen, American.	Write: 'Lincoln was a president.'
4	Civics Vocabulary	Key civics nouns: capital, Congress, flag, government, law, right, county, state, country, United States, Bill of Rights.	Capitalize proper names (United States, Congress) and start sentences with capitals.	Write: 'Congress makes laws.'
5	Places Vocabulary	Places you must read and write: America, Canada, Mexico, Alaska, Washington, the		

United States,
city, county,
state, country.

Memorize the
spelling of the
names that
appear on the
test.

Read aloud:
'Washington is
the capital.'

6	Months & Holidays	Months: February, May, June, July, September, October, November. Holidays: Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day.	Months are capitalized; drill spelling of the six tested months.	Read: 'Independence Day is in July.'
7	Verbs in the Sentences	Common verbs: can, come, do/does, eats, have/has, is/are/was, lives, meet, pay, play, vote, want, work.	Verbs change form with the subject - 'he lives', 'they live'.	Write: 'She can vote.'
8	Other Function Words	Function words used in sentences: a, for, here, in, of, on, the, to, we, what, where, who, and, or.	Learn them as a fixed set; they appear in almost every sentence.	Write: 'We live in the United States.'
9	The 3-Sentence Format	For each of reading and writing, the officer has three sentences and you try them one at a time - you must get ONE right.	If the first sentence is hard, take your time on the next - you get three chances.	You miss the first reading sentence, then read the second one correctly - you pass.
10	Dictation Strategy	Before writing, repeat the dictated sentence in your head; write it word by word; check capitals, periods, and spelling.	Ask 'Can you repeat the sentence, please?' - it is allowed and smart.	The officer says 'The flag is red, white, and blue.' Write it with capitals and a period.
11	Handwriting Counts	The officer reads your writing for meaning; clear, legible handwriting matters more than perfection.	Print or write clearly; fix a misspelled word if you notice it.	You write 'Citizens pay taxes' - readable, correct, passes.

12	Reading Aloud With Confidence	Read the sentence the way the words are written; do not add or skip words. Pause at the period.	Slow, even pace is safer than rushing.	Read: 'There are 50 stars on the flag.' - say every word.
13	Build the Sentence Bank	The tested sentences come from a small official vocabulary set - practice reading and writing every word combination you can construct.	Make 20 practice sentences and write each one daily.	Practice: 'The capital of the United States is Washington, D.C.'
14	Numbers & Date Words	Be ready to write numbers as words when dictated - 'one', 'two', 'fifty' - and to read dates and times.	Write numbers in words; the officer will read the sentence as it should be written.	Dictation: 'There are one hundred senators.' - write 'one hundred'.

Part 3B: English - Speaking & N-400 Interview Language (12 Concepts)

The speaking test happens INSIDE the interview: the officer asks questions about your application and life and listens to how you answer.

#	Term	Key Facts	Memory Aid	Example
1	Speaking Is Assessed All Interview	There is no separate 'speaking test': the officer evaluates your speaking the whole time you answer questions about your N-400 and your background.	Answer in complete sentences, clearly; short but correct beats silent.	The officer asks 'How long have you lived here?' - answer fully: 'I have lived here for six years.'
2	Basic Personal Questions	Expect questions about your name, address, date of birth, marital status, children, and employment. Answer in English.	Practice saying your address, birthday, and job title out loud in English daily.	Q: 'What is your current address?' A: 'I live at 123 Main Street, Chicago, Illinois.'
3	Yes/No Yeses and Noes	The N-400 form has many yes/no questions (memberships, crimes, taxes, military service). The officer often asks them aloud - answer those specific yes or no.	Listen for the exact question; a 'yes' to the wrong question causes a correction.	Q: 'Have you ever been ordered to pay child support?' - answer honestly yes or no.
4	The Time and Travel Questions	The officer asks about your trips outside the U.S. and how long you have lived at your address - dates and durations.	Know the dates on your N-400 card; say 'from March 2021 to June 2022'.	Q: 'When did you last travel outside the U.S.?' A: 'I traveled to Mexico in December 2024.'
5	Say It Again Politely	If you do not understand, ask clearly: 'Can you please repeat the question?' or		

'Can you speak
more slowly,
please?'

Asking for
repetition is
normal and
never counts
against you.

You did not catch
a question - you
ask the officer to
repeat it.

6	One Answer, Full Sentence	Aim for a full simple sentence: 'I was born in Guatemala' rather than just 'Guatemala.'	Full sentences show English ability and sound confident.	Q: 'Where were you born?' A: 'I was born in Honduras.'
7	Vocabulary of the Interview	Useful interview words: address, application, citizen, country, employer, married, name, nationality, oath, signature, travel, work, born.	Drill these 15 words - they cover most officer questions.	Q: 'What is your occupation?' A: 'I work as a cook at a restaurant.'
8	The Oath of Allegiance	At the end, you promise (in English at the ceremony) to support and defend the Constitution, renounce foreign allegiances, and bear arms or perform civilian service when required.	The oath = loyalty to the Constitution + service if needed; practice reading it.	Asked: 'What is the Oath of Allegiance?' - a promise of loyalty to the U.S. and its Constitution.
9	The Interview Flow	Typical order: check-in and oath, identity and application review (yes/no questions), English conversation, civics test, then decision and next steps.	Know the flow so nothing surprises you - the civics test comes after the conversation.	You finish the yes/no questions, then the officer starts the civics questions.
10	If You Do Not Pass a Part	If you fail the English or the civics portion, USCIS schedules a second interview (within 60-90 days in most cases) to retake ONLY the failed portion.	A partial failure is not a denial - it is a second chance to retake one part.	You pass civics but fail writing - you return for a second interview to re-test writing only.

11	What You Can Bring	Bring your green card, passport, and any documents listed in your N-400 interview notice; an interpreter is allowed only for the civics test under the language exemption.	Pack the notice's checklist the night before.	You show your green card and travel documents at check-in.
12	The Judge and the Ceremony	After approval, you attend a naturalization ceremony (often the same day) where you take the Oath, receive your Certificate of Naturalization, and become a U.S. citizen.	The certificate = your proof of citizenship; keep it safe.	Asked: 'What happens at the naturalization ceremony?' - you take the Oath and receive your certificate.

Part 4: Final Review & Interview Strategy (20 Concepts)

The 48-hour rapid review, the 10-point interview blueprint, and the current-answers checklist.

#	Term	Key Facts	Memory Aid	Example
1	Which Test Are You On?	Filed N-400 BEFORE Oct 20, 2025 -> 2008 civics test (10 asked, 6 pass). Filed ON/AFTER Oct 20, 2025 -> 2025 civics test (20 asked, 12 pass, stop at 9 wrong).	Check your filing date first - it decides your question count and passing score.	You filed in September 2025 - you take the 2008 test.
2	The 20-Question Structure (2025)	The 2025 civics test: 128-question bank; officer asks 20; you pass at 12 correct; you fail at 9 wrong; the officer stops at either threshold.	Track your count silently: 12 in = pass; 9 wrong = done.	After your 12th correct answer, the officer stops - you have passed civics.
3	The 10-Question Structure (2008)	The 2008 civics test: 100-question bank; officer asks 10; you need 6 correct. Wrong answers to one topic lead the officer to ask a different question from that topic.	Treat every question as pass-or-fail; 6 correct wins.	You answer 6 correctly - the officer stops, you pass.
4	The Talking Civics Rule	The officer asks the question aloud in English and you answer aloud. Wrong first answers can be repeated or rephrased before they count as wrong.	Answer clearly; if unsure, give your best full answer - a partial credit is still credit.	You miss 'the capital', the officer asks it differently, and you answer correctly.

5	65+ Special Consideration	If you are 65 or older with 20+ years as a lawful permanent resident: only 10 questions from a special 20-question bank, and you may take the civics test in the language of your choice.	Learn the asterisked 20-question bank; bring an interpreter if you test in your language.	A 70-year-old with 25 years of residency qualifies for the shortened test in Spanish.
6	Current Answers Checklist	Before the interview, memorize the CURRENT: President, Vice President, Speaker of the House, your two Senators, your Representative, your Governor, your state capital, and which party controls each office.	Check uscis.gov/citizen-ship/testupdates the week of your interview - never study stale names.	The president changes at an election - learn the one serving at YOUR interview.
7	The 48-Hour Rapid Review	In the final two days, drill: supreme law (Constitution), first words (We the People), 10 amendments (Bill of Rights), 3 branches (make/enforce/interpret), 100/435 Congress, 9 justices, 13/15/19/26 amendments, 13 colonies, 1776/1787, Lincoln/MLK, 2 longest rivers, oceans, capitals.	Run a rapid self-quiz out loud; wrong answers go back to the top of the stack.	Quiz: 'What is the supreme law?' -> 'The Constitution.'

8	The English Drill	Each day: read 10 practice sentences aloud, write 5 dictated sentences, and answer 10 personal questions in full sentences.	Twenty minutes daily beats three hours the night before.	Write 'There are 50 states' - dictation practice.
9	Bring the Documents	Pack: interview notice, green card, passport, photo ID, and any documents the notice lists (tax records, travel dates, divorce decrees).	A complete file = a smooth interview; missing documents cause delays.	Your notice asks for your 2020-2025 tax transcripts - bring them.
10	Morning of the Interview	Arrive 30+ minutes early, dress neatly, bring your file, and stay calm. The interview is a conversation, not a courtroom.	Sleep, eat, arrive early - logistics protect the knowledge you built.	You arrive at the USCIS field office with time to collect yourself.
11	During the Interview	Answer in complete English sentences, ask for repetition when needed, and never argue with the officer. Honesty beats perfection.	Admit 'I do not know' rather than guess wildly on a civics question - a wrong guess is counted.	You are unsure of a question - you ask the officer to repeat it, then answer carefully.
12	After the Interview	Passed: attend the Oath ceremony (often same day) and get your Certificate of Naturalization. Partial fail: wait for the second-interview notice and retake only the failed part.	Keep your certificate, update your Social Security card, and register to vote.	You pass everything and take the Oath the same afternoon.
13	What Naturalization Gives You	A U.S. citizen can: vote, hold most public offices, get a		

U.S. passport,
travel freely,
sponsor family,
and never worry
about
deportation.

Citizenship = voice (vote) + passport + permanence.	Asked: 'What is one thing a citizen can do?' - vote, get a
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passport, or run
for office.

14	The Power of the Vote	Citizens 18+ can vote in federal elections; voting is how you have a say in your government - the 'consent of the governed' in action.	Register, learn the issues, and vote in every election.	Asked: 'What is one responsibility of citizens?' - vote, obey the law, pay taxes, or serve on a jury.
15	The Freedom the Oath Protects	The Oath commits you to defend the Constitution - which protects speech, religion, and fair trials for everyone, including people you disagree with.	The rights you swear to defend are the rights everyone holds.	Asked: 'What does the Constitution do?' - it defines the government and protects rights.
16	Good Study Habits	Study in 20-minute sessions, use flashcards for current answers, repeat the English sentence bank daily, and take a practice interview with a friend.	Testing yourself out loud mirrors the real interview better than silent reading.	You practice a mock interview at the kitchen table twice before the real one.
17	Use the Free Official Materials	USCIS publishes the official civics question list and MP3 audio free at uscis.gov/citizen-ship . Use this guide to LEARN and the official list to VERIFY.	Cross-check every current answer and every civics fact against the official materials.	You download the official audio to rehearse the questions exactly as phrased.
18	The Final Mindset	Naturalization officers want you to pass: the process is a review, not a trap. Preparation removes the fear; the interview becomes a conversation		

about your life.

			You have done the work - walk in, speak clearly, and finish the journey.	After the Oath, you shake the officer's hand as a new U.S. citizen.
19	One Nation From Many	The seal's motto 'E Pluribus Unum' - out of many, one - sums up naturalization:		

many
backgrounds,
one citizenship.

Remember the
phrase; it is the
story of your own
journey.

Asked: 'What is
the motto?' - 'In
God We Trust'
(motto) - and the
seal reads 'E
Pluribus Unum'.

20	Register to Vote	The day you naturalize you can register to vote (and you should). Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and election days now include you.	Voting is the first act of full citizenship.	After the ceremony, a volunteer helps you register to vote on the spot.
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The 10-Point Interview Blueprint

A condensed checklist to review the morning of your USCIS interview.

- 1. Know your test: filed BEFORE Oct 20, 2025 -> 2008 civics (10 asked, 6 pass); filed ON/AFTER -> 2025 civics (20 asked, 12 pass, stop at 9 wrong).
- 2. English: read 1 of 3 sentences, write 1 of 3 dictated sentences, and speak throughout the interview in full sentences.
- 3. Civics: answer clearly in English (or your chosen language if you qualify for the 65+ special consideration - 10 questions from the 20-question bank).
- 4. Current answers: memorize the current President, Vice President, Speaker, your 2 Senators, your Representative, your Governor, your state capital, and party control - check uscis.gov/citizenship/testupdates.
- 5. Core facts: Constitution (supreme law), We the People, Bill of Rights (10 amendments), 3 branches (make/enforce/interpret), 100 senators / 435 House, 9 justices, 13th/14th/15th/19th/24th/26th amendments.
- 6. History: 13 colonies, Declaration July 4 1776 (Jefferson), Constitution 1787 Philadelphia, Civil War 1861-1865 (Lincoln), MLK + civil rights, 9/11 + War on Terror.
- 7. Geography & symbols: Atlantic east, Pacific west, Canada north, Mexico south, capital Washington D.C., 50 states, 13 stripes, 50 stars, Statue of Liberty, bald eagle.
- 8. Documents: interview notice, green card, passport, photo ID, and everything your notice lists - packed the night before.
- 9. Interview behavior: arrive early, answer in complete sentences, ask for repetition politely, never guess wildly, stay honest and calm.
- 10. After: pass -> Oath ceremony and Certificate of Naturalization; partial fail -> second interview to retake only the failed portion. Then register to vote.
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- Remember: this guide is an independent study aid, NOT affiliated with or endorsed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) or any government agency. USCIS publishes the official civics questions and answers free at uscis.gov/citizenship - use them to verify every answer, especially the officials serving at the time of your interview.