

Coming to America

US Citizenship Exam June 2006

An individual can become a citizen of the United States of America three different ways:

BIRTH

If you were born in the United States you are an American citizen by birth. In most cases, you are also a citizen by birth if you were born in Puerto Rico, Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands. If you were born in the United States but your parents were foreign diplomats (on assignment in the United States from another country) at the time of your birth, you are not a United States citizen.

If you were born outside of the United States and both of your parents were United States citizens at the time and at least one of them had lived in the United States at some point before your birth, you are also a U.S. citizen by birth. If only one of your parents is a U.S. citizen and you are born overseas, your citizen parent must have lived in the United States for at least five years (including at least two years after the age of fourteen) for you to be considered a U.S. citizen by birth.

NATURALIZATION

The Constitution of the United States of America empowers the Congress "to establish a uniform Rule of Naturalization" ([Article I, Section 8](#)). Through the procedures the Congress establishes, individuals who are not natural born citizens of the United States may become "naturalized" citizens.

In general, an individual must first be granted status as a permanent United States resident before becoming eligible to apply for U.S. citizenship. In almost every case (greater than 90%), an individual must be a permanent resident in the United States (with no absence of greater than six months during that time) before applying for naturalization. Some exceptions apply for individuals who marry a United States citizen, individuals who have served in the armed forces or individuals married to members of the armed services.

To become a naturalized citizen of the United States of America, an individual must meet three significant requirements other than being a permanent resident for the specified number of years. An applicant for U.S. citizenship must also demonstrate "good moral character," proficiency in English and basic civics knowledge and an attachment to the United States Constitution.

Good Moral Character

An applicant might be deemed to lack good moral character if he or she has:

- committed a crime against an individual, property or the Government
- been involved in drug abuse, habitual use of alcohol, illegal gambling, prostitution or polygamy
- violated a court order to pay alimony or child support
- lied to gain immigration benefits
- been deported for any reason
- been involved in the persecution of others in the United States on the basis of race, religion, national origin or political opinion

English and Civics

United States naturalization laws require that an applicant for citizenship have "an understanding of the English language, including an ability to read, write and speak" in ordinary, commonly used English. The individual must also possess a "knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the history, and of the principles and form of government, of the United States."

To meet these requirements, applicants are interviewed by an Immigration and Naturalization Services officer and tested for their proficiency in English and civics. The following are examples of questions applicants are commonly asked:

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“... for the support of this Declaration, with a firm Reliance on the Protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honour.”

– Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

“...(B)y the time [he / she] leaves eighth grade, your child should know enough about the governing principles and institutions of the United States to pass... ..a citizenship test.”

Bennett, William J., Finn, Jr., Chester E. and Cribb, Jr., John T.E.,
The Educated Child: A Parent’s Guide. New York, New York 1999.

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- In order to vote, a person must be 18 years of age or older and be a
 - property owner.
 - woman.
 - citizen.**
 - taxpayer.
- A person cannot become Vice President of the United States unless born
 - in one of the original 13 states.
 - in the United States.**
 - later than the President.
 - in the same state as the President.
- The system of “checks and balances” gives the
 - President power to overrule state government.
 - Supreme Court the power to amend the Constitution.
 - House of Representatives power to pass bills that the Senate refuses to approve.
 - Senate power to approve treaties.**
- The city of Washington, D.C., was burned down in the
 - War of 1812.**
 - Civil War.
 - Revolutionary War.
 - Spanish-American War.
- A member of the Senate may **not** at the same time
 - serve as an Ambassador.**
 - own a home outside of the state from which elected.
 - travel abroad.
 - campaign for office.
- The state most recently admitted to the Union is
 - Alaska.
 - Hawaii.**
 - Delaware.
 - Washington.
- The number of members in the United States House of Representatives is
 - 100.
 - 109.
 - 435.**
 - 535.

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8. The amendment to the U.S. Constitution that protects citizens from unwarranted search of their homes or seizure of their property is the
- A. First.
 - B. Second.
 - C. **Fourth.**
 - D. Sixth.
9. The President of the United States must be a native-born citizen and must be at least how many years old?
- A. 25
 - B. 30
 - C. **35**
 - D. 39
10. The National Anthem of the United States is
- A. “America the Beautiful.”
 - B. **the “Star-Spangled Banner.”**
 - C. “Battle Hymn of the Republic.”
 - D. “God Bless America.”
11. If a federal official is impeached and is found guilty, he or she will
- A. go to prison.
 - B. be deported.
 - C. pay a fine.
 - D. **lose his or her job.**
12. Which of these states did **not** secede from the Union?
- A. Florida
 - B. Tennessee
 - C. **Maryland**
 - D. Texas
13. Which document begins with the words, “*We the People of the United States...*”?
- A. Declaration of Independence
 - B. **Constitution**
 - C. Mayflower Compact
 - D. Bill of Rights
14. The term “President’s cabinet” refers to
- A. the piece of furniture in which unsigned bills are filed.
 - B. congressional committee heads.
 - C. the President’s secretarial staff.
 - D. **a group of advisors.**

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15. Of the following structures, the one that is not in Washington, D.C. is
- A. **Independence Hall.**
 - B. the White House.
 - C. the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.
 - D. the Washington Monument.
16. If the President vetoes a bill, that bill can still become law by a vote of
- A. a majority of both houses of Congress meeting in joint session.
 - B. **two-thirds of the members of each house of Congress.**
 - C. one-half of the members of the House of Representatives.
 - D. three-fourths of the members of each house of Congress.
17. The American Civil War was fought in
- A. Canada.
 - B. parts of Central America.
 - C. **the southern part of the United States.**
 - D. Cuba.
18. A ruling of the United States Supreme Court must be
- A. resubmitted to the Supreme Court on appeal.
 - B. appealed directly to the President of the United States.
 - C. overturned by a three-fourths vote of both Houses of Congress.
 - D. **accepted.**
19. A divorce granted in one state is recognized as valid in all states by virtue of
- A. **the “full faith and credit clause” of the Constitution.**
 - B. a law passed by Congress.
 - C. the Bill of Rights.
 - D. the principle of “States’ rights.”
20. What was the effect of dropping the first atomic bombs?
- A. The Korean War began.
 - B. **World War II ended in the Far East.**
 - C. World War II ended in Europe.
 - D. Members of disadvantaged minority groups rioted in Los Angeles.
21. The first English settlers in the Massachusetts Bay Colony came to this country
- A. instead of serving time in debtor’s prison.
 - B. to escape famine.
 - C. **in search of religious freedom.**
 - D. to avoid paying taxes to the king.

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22. Why did George Washington serve only two terms as President?
- A. The Constitution limits a President to two terms.
 - B. He retired.**
 - C. He was not re-elected.
 - D. He died in office.
23. In which war did the call “Remember the *Maine*” rally American forces to battle?
- A. French and Indian War
 - B. Spanish-American War**
 - C. Civil War
 - D. World War II
24. The Statue of Liberty may be seen and visited in
- A. Plymouth, Massachusetts.
 - B. Washington, D.C.
 - C. Philadelphia’s Independence Hall.
 - D. New York Harbor.**
25. What is the term of office served by a federal judge?
- A. Six years
 - B. Thirteen years
 - C. His or her lifetime**
 - D. Until the next President is elected
26. In World War II, the group of countries including Germany, Italy, and Japan was called the
- A. Axis.**
 - B. Allies.
 - C. Central Powers.
 - D. United Front.
27. The heads of executive departments serve as members of the President’s cabinet. One of these, the head of the Department of Justice, is the Attorney General of the United States. Every other cabinet member bears the title
- A. Department Head.
 - B. Secretary.**
 - C. Executive.
 - D. General Attorney.
28. From the standpoint of the states that seceded from the Union at the start of the Civil War, the chief issue was “States’ rights” and their desire to live under laws that favored the southern economy. From the standpoint of the federal government, and most especially that of President Lincoln, the issue over which the war was fought was
- A. slavery.
 - B. the price of cotton.
 - C. the insolubility of the Union.**
 - D. freedom of the seas.

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29. In the history of the United States, only two Presidents have been impeached. The Senate convicted neither President; therefore, they served out the remainder of their terms of office. Name one of those two Presidents.
- A. Richard Nixon
 - B. Andrew Jackson
 - C. Lyndon Johnson
 - D. **Andrew Johnson**
30. The group of men who debated independence was called the
- A. **Continental Congress.**
 - B. Mayflower Compact.
 - C. Senate.
 - D. Conference of Governors.
31. Who has the power to declare war?
- A. The House of Representatives
 - B. The Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces
 - C. The Senate
 - D. **Congress**
32. The Supreme Law of the Land in the United States is
- A. the final ruling of the United States Supreme Court.
 - B. the most recent amendment to the United States Constitution.
 - C. **the United States Constitution.**
 - D. a joint resolution of Congress.
33. Which group received the right to vote most recently?
- A. Women
 - B. Former slaves
 - C. Poor people
 - D. **18-year olds**
34. “The Father of Our Country” is
- A. King George III of England.
 - B. **George Washington.**
 - C. Abraham Lincoln.
 - D. Martin Luther King.
35. The United States Constitution does not mention political parties; but the right for the people to assemble peaceably, as granted by the First Amendment, clearly allows for political parties. The two political parties most active in the United States today are the
- A. Liberal Party and Conservative Party.
 - B. Labor Party and Conservative Party.
 - C. **Democratic Party and Republican Party.**
 - D. Republican Party and People’s Party.

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36. The right to trial by jury means that
- A. the trial will be fair.
 - B. a panel of three judges must agree on a verdict.
 - C. trial judges are elected by a vote of the people.
 - D. **guilt or innocence is determined by ordinary citizens who listen to the evidence.**
37. What happens if the President dies in office?
- A. **The Vice President automatically becomes President.**
 - B. The Electoral College meets and elects a new President.
 - C. The United States House of Representatives chooses a new President.
 - D. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appoints a new President.
38. Since the passage of the Thirteenth Amendment,
- A. a general census has been taken every ten years.
 - B. **slavery has been illegal.**
 - C. naturalized citizens have been permitted to vote.
 - D. all wage earners have been required to pay an income tax.
39. All but one of the following statements is true. Which statement is **not** true?
- A. Every state has its own constitution that governs that state.
 - B. A state cannot pass and enforce a law that is in conflict with the United States Constitution.
 - C. **Each state can set its own rules with regard to trade with other states.**
 - D. Every state has its own judicial system; that is, its own set of courts.
40. If a person commits a crime in one state, leaves that state and is caught in another state, the state in which the person was caught will
- A. try the person for the crime.
 - B. **return the person to the state in which the crime was committed.**
 - C. send the person to the state of which he or she is a citizen.
 - D. send the person to a state in which he or she is unknown so as to assure an impartial jury.
41. Where were the original 13 American colonies located?
- A. **On the East Coast**
 - B. On the West Coast
 - C. In the Midwest
 - D. In the Southwest
42. When is Independence Day?
- A. May 30
 - B. **July 4**
 - C. September 7
 - D. November 24

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43. A naturalized U.S. citizen may be required to
- A. vote.
 - B. serve on a jury.**
 - C. make campaign contributions.
 - D. bring family members to the United States.
44. The first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution are called the
- A. Bill of Rights.**
 - B. Rights of States.
 - C. Articles of Confederation.
 - D. Declaration of Independence.
45. Which of these protect the freedom of speech and religion?
- A. Declaration of Independence
 - B. Bill of Rights**
 - C. early laws of Congress
 - D. state laws
46. The first President of the United States was
- A. Abraham Lincoln.
 - B. James Madison.
 - C. Thomas Jefferson.
 - D. George Washington.**
47. The term “Reconstruction” refers to the
- A. time after the War of 1812 during which Washington, D.C., was rebuilt.
 - B. creation of the memorial to victims on the battleship *USS Arizona* at Pearl Harbor.
 - C. post-Civil War era in the South.**
 - D. mine safety improvements won by the United Mine Workers in 1923.
48. During the Civil War, the U.S. President was
- A. Ulysses S. Grant.
 - B. Andrew Jackson.
 - C. Abraham Lincoln.**
 - D. Jefferson Davis.
49. An amendment to the United States Constitution gave women the right to
- A. vote.**
 - B. speak freely.
 - C. own property.
 - D. serve in the Army.

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50. When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, the United States entered
- A. World War I.
 - B. World War II.**
 - C. the Korean War.
 - D. the Vietnam War.
51. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a
- A. Senator.
 - B. Governor.
 - C. medical scientist.
 - D. civil rights leader.**
52. Where is the United States Capital?
- A. Washington, D.C.**
 - B. New York City, NY
 - C. Philadelphia, PA
 - D. Boston, MA
53. The head of the Executive branch of the United States government is the
- A. Governor.
 - B. President.**
 - C. Chief Justice.
 - D. Speaker of the House.
54. A President is elected every
- A. year.
 - B. two years.
 - C. four years.**
 - D. six years.
55. The “Cold War”
- A. was fought in Alaska.
 - B. was a period of hostility but no fighting.**
 - C. is another name for the American Civil War.
 - D. began with the dropping of the first atomic bomb.
56. The United States Congress is made up of the Senate and the
- A. Assembly.
 - B. Lower House.
 - C. House of Commons.
 - D. House of Representatives.**

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57. A state government is headed by a
- A. **Governor.**
 - B. Secretary of State.
 - C. President.
 - D. Senator.
58. A mayor governs a
- A. **city.**
 - B. township.
 - C. province.
 - D. region.
59. The United Nations is an international organization
- A. **of which the United States is a member.**
 - B. with power to override the Constitution of the United States.
 - C. to which the United States does not belong.
 - D. which is dominated by the United States.
60. A United States citizen has the right to do all of the following *except*
- A. march in front of the White House to protest immigration policies.
 - B. **plot to overthrow the government by force.**
 - C. burn the American flag.
 - D. choose to work in a hospital instead of serving in the armed forces.
61. What do the stars of the United States flag represent?
- A. The 13 original colonies
 - B. Each of the people who signed the Declaration of Independence
 - C. Battles fought for United States independence
 - D. **Each of the states in the Union**
62. Which President acquired the Louisiana Territory from Napoleon?
- A. **Thomas Jefferson**
 - B. James Madison
 - C. James Monroe
 - D. Franklin D. Roosevelt
63. What color are the stars on the U. S. flag?
- A. red
 - B. **white**
 - C. blue
 - D. green

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64. How many stripes are on the flag?
- A. 6
 - B. 7
 - C. **13**
 - D. 21
65. What color are the stripes of the flag?
- A. **red and white**
 - B. red and blue
 - C. blue and white
 - D. blue and green
66. What do the stripes on the flag represent?
- A. **The 13 original colonies**
 - B. Each of the people who signed the Declaration of Independence
 - C. The battles fought for United States independence
 - D. Each of the people who signed the United States Constitution
67. How many states are there in the Union?
- A. 51
 - B. **50**
 - C. 49
 - D. 48
68. From what country did the colonies declare Independence?
- A. France
 - B. Spain
 - C. **England**
 - D. Italy
69. What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?
- A. Italy
 - B. **England**
 - C. Spain
 - D. France
70. Who is the President of the United States today?
- A. George H. W. Bush
 - B. William J. Clinton
 - C. Richard M. Nixon
 - D. **George W. Bush**

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71. Who is the Vice President of the United States?
- A. James D. Quayle
 - B. Albert A. Gore
 - C. **Richard Cheney**
 - D. Gerald Ford
72. Can the United States Constitution be changed?
- A. **yes**
 - B. no
 - C. only in March of a presidential election year
 - D. only by state conventions
73. What do we call a change to the Constitution?
- A. **amendment**
 - B. ex post facto
 - C. habeas corpus
 - D. judicial review
74. How many changes or amendments are there to the Constitution
- A. 10
 - B. 21
 - C. **27**
 - D. 30
75. How many branches are there in our government?
- A. **3**
 - B. 6
 - C. 9
 - D. 12
76. How long do members of the House of Representatives serve?
- A. one year
 - B. **two years**
 - C. four years
 - D. six years
77. What are the three branches of our government
- A. aristocracy, theocracy, and political
 - B. **executive, judicial, and legislative**
 - C. unitary, federal, and parliamentary
 - D. privy council, monarch, parliament

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78. How many justices are on the United States Supreme Court?
- A. seven
 - B. nine**
 - C. eleven
 - D. thirteen
79. How many years do members of the Senate serve?
- A. one
 - B. two
 - C. four
 - D. six**
80. How many states seceded from the Union in the 19th Century?
- A. nine
 - B. ten
 - C. eleven**
 - D. twelve
81. When was the Great Depression?
- A. 1929 – 1941**
 - B. 1914 – 1918
 - C. 1941 – 1945
 - D. 1960 – 1975
82. Who is the Governor of Florida?
- A. Frank Brogan
 - B. Bob Butterworth
 - C. Katherine Harris
 - D. Jeb Bush**
83. Name the two Senators from Florida who are currently in the Congress of the United States.
- A. Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez**
 - B. Max Cleland and John McCain
 - C. Richard Shelby and Jeff Sessions
 - D. Strom Thurmond and Jeb Bush
84. A member of the U.S. House of Representatives from the Orlando area (8th District, Florida) is
- A. Dennis Hastert.
 - B. Alcee L. Hasting.
 - C. Richard Keller.**
 - D. James A. Leach.

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85. Can the residents of Washington, D.C., vote for President of the United States?
- A. yes
 - B. no
 - C. after they are 25
 - D. only if they own property
86. Who was President of The Confederate States of America?
- A. Ulysses S. Grant
 - B. Andrew Jackson
 - C. Abraham Lincoln
 - D. ***Jefferson Davis***
87. Women received the right to vote with the passage of the
- A. Thirteenth Amendment in 1865.
 - B. Sixteenth Amendment in 1913.
 - C. **Nineteenth Amendment in 1920.**
 - D. Twenty-Second Amendment in 1951.
88. What is the state capital of Florida?
- A. Miami
 - B. Tampa
 - C. Montgomery
 - D. **Tallahassee**
89. Who was the third President of the United States?
- A. George Washington
 - B. John Adams
 - C. **Thomas Jefferson**
 - D. James Madison
90. Who is the current Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?
- A. **Dennis Hastert**
 - B. Newt Gingrich
 - C. Thomas S. Foley
 - D. James C. Wright
91. Who is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?
- A. John Jay
 - B. **John Roberts**
 - C. John Rutledge
 - D. Warren E. Burger

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92. Which one of the following was *not* a Presidential candidate in 1996?
- A. William J. Clinton
 - B. Robert J. Dole
 - C. H. Ross Perot
 - D. **George W. Bush**
93. Which of the following was a class-action lawsuit that established the principle that segregation in public places is unconstitutional?
- A. *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)
 - B. *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
 - C. **Brown v. Board of Education (1954)**
 - D. *Tinker v. Des Moines School District* (1969)
94. Who said, “Give me liberty or give me death”?
- A. John Hancock
 - B. James Madison
 - C. **Patrick Henry**
 - D. Samuel Adams
95. The Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Lincoln, stated that
- A. **freed slaves in areas of the Confederate states not held by the Union.**
 - B. Declared slave trade to be illegal.
 - C. gave protection to slaves who fled to Canada.
 - D. abolished slavery in the Union.
96. Which document established the division of powers between the states and the federal government?
- A. Marshall Plan
 - B. **Constitution**
 - C. Declaration of Independence
 - D. Articles of Confederation
97. Ronald W. Reagan was president from
- A. 1977 – 1981.
 - B. **1981 – 1989.**
 - C. 1989 – 1993.
 - D. 1993 – 2000.
98. Who said, “*I regret that I have only one life to give for my country*”?
- A. John F. Kennedy
 - B. Benedict Arnold
 - C. John Brown
 - D. **Nathan Hale**

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99. Who was the president of the United States at the beginning of the Korean War?
- A. John F. Kennedy
 - B. Franklin D. Roosevelt
 - C. Dwight Eisenhower
 - D. **Harry Truman**
100. How many stars are in the U. S. flag?
- A. 48
 - B. 49
 - C. **50**
 - D. 51

Why Become a U.S. Citizen?

Permanent residents have most of the rights of U.S. citizens. However, there are many important reasons to consider becoming a U.S. citizen. Here are some good reasons:

- **Showing your patriotism:** Becoming a citizen is a way to demonstrate your commitment to your new country.
- **Voting:** Only citizens can vote in federal elections.
- **Serving on a jury:** Only U.S. citizens can serve on a jury. Serving on a jury is an important responsibility for U.S. citizens.
- **Traveling with a U.S. passport:** A U.S. passport enables you to get assistance from the U.S. government when overseas, if necessary.
- **Bringing family members to the U.S.:** U.S. citizens generally get priority when petitioning to bring family members permanently to this country.
- **Obtaining citizenship for children born abroad:** In most cases, a child born abroad to a U.S. citizen is automatically a U.S. citizen.
- **Becoming eligible for federal jobs:** Certain jobs with government agencies require U.S. citizenship.
- **Becoming an elected official:** Many elected offices in this country require U.S. citizenship.
- **Meeting tax requirements:** Tax requirements may be different for U.S. citizens and permanent residents.
- **Keeping your residency:** A U.S. citizen's right to remain in the United States cannot be taken away.
- **Becoming eligible for federal grants and scholarships:** Many financial aid grants, including college scholarships and funds given by the government for specific purposes, are available only to U.S. citizens.
- **Obtaining government benefits:** Some government benefits are available only to U.S. citizens.