

US Citizenship Test Cheat Sheet 2026

The night-before summary, built like the exam.

20 Questions	— Time limit	12 of 20 correct (2025 te... Passing score
— Exam fee	U.S. Citizenship and Imm... Governing body	

Test mechanics — know your version

- Filed N-400 on/after Oct 20, 2025 -> 2025 test: 20 oral questions from a 128-question pool · 12 correct passes · officer stops at 12 right or 9 wrong
- Filed before Oct 20, 2025 -> 2008 test: up to 10 questions from a 100-question pool · 6 correct passes · stops at 6 right or 5 wrong
- 65/20 rule: age 65+ and a green-card holder 20+ years -> 10 questions from the 20 starred questions, any language
- English portion: read 1 of 3 sentences · write 1 of 3 sentences · speaking judged during the interview

Numbers that decide questions

- Senators: 100, term 6 years, 2 per state
- House: 435 voting members, term 2 years, seats follow population
- President: term 4 years, elected in November
- Voting age: 18 (26th Amendment) · Tax day: April 15 · Selective Service: men 18-26
- Amendments: 27 total · first 10 = Bill of Rights · original states: 13
- Flag: 13 stripes (colonies) · 50 stars (states)

One-line answers the officers expect

- Supreme law of the land -> the Constitution
- First three words -> We the People (self-government)
- Three branches -> legislative, executive, judicial; stopped from over-power by checks and balances
- Makes federal laws -> Congress · signs/vetoes bills -> the President · highest court -> the Supreme Court
- President can't serve -> the Vice President · Commander in Chief -> the President · Cabinet -> advises the President
- Federal powers -> print money, declare war, treaties · State powers -> schooling, licenses, police
- Economic system -> capitalist / market economy · Rule of law -> no one is above the law

History one-liners

- Declaration: written by Jefferson, adopted July 4, 1776
- Constitution written 1787 · Federalist Papers: Hamilton, Madison, Jay
- Father of Our Country / first President -> Washington · Franklin -> diplomat, first Postmaster General
- 1803 -> Louisiana Purchase from France · North-vs-South war -> Civil War, over slavery
- Lincoln -> led Civil War, Emancipation Proclamation freed Confederate-state slaves
- Susan B. Anthony -> women's rights · Depression + WWII President -> Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Cold War concern -> communism · MLK -> civil rights · 9/11/2001 -> terrorist attack on the U.S.

Symbols & geography

- Anthem -> Star-Spangled Banner · Statue of Liberty -> New York Harbor · Independence Day -> July 4
- East Coast -> Atlantic · West Coast -> Pacific · North border -> Canada · South border -> Mexico · Capital -> Washington, D.C.
- Memorial Day (May) honors the fallen · Veterans Day (Nov 11) honors all who served — don't swap them

The night before

- Refresh current officials: President, VP, Speaker, your governor, one senator — answers must match who serves on interview day
- Say answers out loud — the test is oral
- Bring your interview notice and green card; the civics test happens inside the N-400 interview

Official sources

- U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) — Study for the Test — USCIS Citizenship Resource Center:
<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/find-study-materials-and-resources/study-for-the-test>
- USCIS — Form G-1055 Fee Schedule — N-400, Application for Naturalization:
<https://www.uscis.gov/g-1055?form=n-400>
- USCIS — Exceptions and Accommodations — English language exemptions:
<https://www.uscis.gov/citizenship/exceptions-and-accommodations>

Free practice questions for this exam: www.everyexamprep.com/exams/us-citizenship-test/practice-test