Civics Test Administration Manual



Kentucky Department of

EDUCATION

Table of Contents

Introduction....3
Civics Test Guidance....3
Civics Test Questions....4
Test Administration....4
Which Grade Takes the Test?....4
Student Accommodations....4
Implementation Considerations....5
Scoring the Civics Test....5
Recording Results....5
Reporting Results....6
The First-Time Successful Completion Rate of the Civics Test....6
The Average Number of Times a Student Takes the Civics Test for Successful Completion....7
Suggested Answer Key and Test Question Alignment....7
Civics Test and Question Samples....18
Civics Test Extended Response Format....18
Government....18
U.S. History....21
Geography....22
Economics....23
Civics Test Multiple-Choice/Short-Answer Format....23
Multiple Choice....23
Short Answer....34
Document-Based Sample Sets....35
Sample Set One....35
Sample Set Two....37
Sample Set Three....39

Introduction

House Bill (HB) 535 (2024) amends Kentucky Revised Statute (KRS) 158.141 to require, **beginning with students entering grade 9 in the 2025-2026 academic year**, a one-half credit course in civic literacy ***or*** a civics test for graduation.

Per KRS 158.141(1), "Beginning with the entering ninth grade class of the 2025-2026 school year, and each year thereafter, graduation requirements for each student in every public high school in Kentucky graduating with a regular diploma shall include successful completion of either:

(a) A one-half (1/2) credit course in civic literacy that includes instruction in the areas required in subsection (5) of this section; or

(b) A civics test composed of one hundred (100) questions drawn from those that are set forth within the civics test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens."

To meet the civic literacy requirement, districts shall implement at least one of the following options:

1. A one-half (1/2) civic literacy credit in addition to the existing 3 social studies credits required for graduation;
2. A one-half (1/2) civic literacy credit embedded within the existing 3 social studies credits required for graduation;
3. A civics test composed of one hundred (100) questions drawn from those that are set forth within the civics test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens.

The guidance provided below is specific to local boards of education that choose to administer the civics test option.

Civics Test Guidance

The local board shall prepare or approve a test composed of one hundred (100) questions drawn from those that are set forth within the civics test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens and shall disseminate the test to all public high schools of the district. **A student shall not receive a regular high school diploma until the student successfully completes the test requirements.** This requirement also applies to students participating in the Early Graduation Program established under KRS 158.142.

Local boards of education that choose to require the civics test must meet the following parameters as specified in KRS 158.141:

- **The local board shall prepare or approve a test and shall disseminate the test to all public high schools** of the district.
- The test shall be **administered by each public high school in the district**.
- Students shall be provided with the opportunity to take the test as many times as necessary for the student to pass the test **without the use of instructional aids** during testing, including but not limited to textbooks and internet browser searching.
- A student shall be considered to have **successfully completed the test if at least 70% of the questions are answered correctly**.
- A student who has passed a similar test within the previous five (5) years may provide the board with evidence of successful completion and shall not be required to take the test.
- **By Sept. 1, 2026, and each year thereafter,** each school district requiring a civics test for graduation **shall submit annual testing data** to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE), which shall include:
    - The first-time successful completion rate of the civics test; and
    - The average number of times a student takes the civics test for successful completion.
- Schools and districts must meet the requirements and accommodations of a student's individualized education program (IEP) as defined in KRS 158.281 or a Section 504 Plan as defined in KRS 156.027.

Civics Test Questions

The official list of 128 civics questions included on the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalization test and free study materials are posted in the 2025 Civics Test questions and answers (PDF).
A chart with a list of 100 civics questions selected from the naturalization test, along with an answer key, subject and standard alignment can be found starting on page 7 of this document. Student-friendly versions of the exam in short answer and multiple-choice format can be found starting on page 18. A short introduction to these student-friendly versions begins on page 18.

Test Administration

Per KRS 158.141(3), if a local board requires the completion of a civics test, “the board shall prepare or approve a test composed of one hundred (100) questions drawn from those that are set forth within the civics test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens and shall disseminate the test to all public high schools of the district. The test shall be administered by each public high school in the district.”

Which Grade Takes the Test?

The statute requiring the civics test does not provide guidance regarding the high school grade(s) when students should be permitted to take the test. Subsection (13) of KRS 157.320 defines secondary schools as follows:
"Secondary school" means a school consisting of grades seven (7) through twelve (12), or any appropriate combination of grades within this range as determined by the plan of organization for schools authorized by the district board. When grades seven (7) through nine (9) or ten (10) are organized separately as a junior high school, or grades ten (10) through twelve (12) are organized separately as a senior high school and are conducted in separate school plant facilities, each shall be considered a separate secondary school for the purposes of KRS 157.310 to 157.440.”

In short, the local school board defines the grades of a high school. A high school can be any grades 7-12 and any combination within that range. If the local school board defines a high school as grades 10-12, then those are the grades that are eligible to take the civics test.
Students should have the opportunity to learn the content of the civics test before being asked to take the test. Based on the alignment of the test questions to the *Kentucky Academic Standards (KAS) for Social Studies*, students should have been exposed to virtually all the test content by the end of grade 8.

Student Accommodations

Per KRS 158.141(3)(e), a local board that chooses to administer the civics test “shall be subject to the requirements and accommodations of a student's individualized education program as defined in KRS 158.281 or a Section 504 Plan as defined in KRS 156.027.”

If a student is entitled to accommodations based on an IEP or 504 plan, these accommodations must be provided for the civics test. The Admissions and Release Committee (ARC) may identify assessment accommodations for district and state assessments, but these must be used consistently as a part of the student’s routine instruction and classroom assessment. For a student on track for an alternate diploma, the civics test would not be required to earn the alternate diploma.

Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) is part of legislation enacted to ensure that English Learners (ELs) meet the same academic content and academic achievement standards that other children are expected to meet. All local districts have legal obligations to ELs under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Equal Educational Opportunities Act (EEOA) to provide an effective language instruction educational program (LIEP) and ensure ELs have full access to the same curriculum as non-ELs. This includes providing reasonable accommodations on content assessments. A school district should ensure that there are no structural barriers within the design of its academic program that would prevent EL students who enter high school with beginner-level English

proficiency from graduating on time with the prerequisites to enter college. 703 KAR 5:070 requires procedures for special populations in the state-required assessments, which includes ELs. Section 2 of the regulation guidance outlines the inclusion of ELs on state-required assessment and accountability programs. This regulation would apply to the civics test and any EL student should get accommodations that are listed in their Program Service Plan (PSP).

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services website offers publications, resources and the exam in other languages for reference such as Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese. For more information, visit the USCIS Multilingual Resource Center page. The information provided should only be used as a study tool for the exam. Districts should avoid using any translated test unless they have a certified interpreter to administer and interpret the assessment.

Implementation Considerations

The information found in the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test assesses the basic knowledge required of individuals to become active citizens who participate in a representative democracy. Since the intent of this exam is for students to have a basic understanding of civics content, local school boards may find that implementing this test in a variety of ways maximizes student retention of this knowledge.

While local school districts may implement the civics test as a traditional standardized test, this is not the only way in which the test may be administered to students. For instance, local school boards may choose to distribute questions from the civics test among applicable unit assessments or between different social studies courses or years of study. As long as the district has a method to document a student's performance on the 100 questions, the district may select the implementation method that best meets the needs of their students.

For access to a web-based platform for implementation, the KDE has partnered with the University of Kentucky to offer a multiple-choice version of the civics test through Digital Driven Learning (DDL). Every Kentucky school district has access to this platform and students can log in with their school email or their Google account. For questions regarding the platform, email iDrive Digital support.

Scoring the Civics Test

Procedures for administering and scoring the civics test are under the discretion of the local school district so long as the test is administered within the parameters described in KRS 158.141. Statute provides students with the opportunity to take the test as many times as necessary for the student to pass the test without the use of instructional aids during testing (KRS 158.141(3)(b)). A student is considered to have successfully completed the test if "at least seventy percent (70%) of the questions are answered correctly" (KRS 158.141(3)(c)).
Since students have the ability to retake the exam as many times as necessary, it is up to the local school district, per KRS 158.141(3)(a), to determine retaking policies and procedures to address issues such as whether or not a student must answer questions that he or she has gotten correct if the 70% passing rate was not achieved during a testing session.

A suggested answer key is provided starting on page 7. When scoring this test, it is important to understand that the answer key provided does not necessarily include all of the possible correct answers that a student could provide. While questions like "What is the supreme law of the land?" might be very straightforward, other questions such as "What does the Constitution do?" will require that the scorer understand the variety of ways the question can be answered if a short-answer format is used.

Recording Results

Local boards of education will determine how the passing grade will be documented. One example of how passing scores may be documented is to use the Assessment Tab inside of Infinite Campus.

For those students on track to earn an alternate diploma, the local board of education will document this student as earning the diploma type “other high school equivalency diploma.” When documenting that a student has met the graduation requirement of the civics test, either passing it with a 70% or being exempt due to receiving the alternative diploma, the local district may document this as follows: “Civics Test: Requirement Met.” Students who have passed a similar exam that was modified from the 128-question test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services at the high school level within the last five years are not required to take the test again.

Reporting Results

By Sept. 1, 2026, and each year thereafter, each school district requiring a civics test for graduation shall submit annual testing data to the KDE, which shall include the following for each eligible cohort of students:

- The first-time successful completion rate of the civics test; and
- The average number of times a student takes the civics test for successful completion.

To submit annual testing data to the KDE, complete the Civics Test Annual Reporting Form. This form will become available Nov. 1 of every year and will close after the Sept. 1 deadline. Superintendents may complete the form, or they may assign a designee to submit this information. When submitting this data, districts should submit the cumulative data for each eligible cohort of students for all the years since they entered grade 9. A sample chart outlining students who are eligible for reporting follows:

School Year	Reporting Deadline	Students Eligible for Reporting
2025-2026	Sept. 1, 2026	Students entering grade 9 in 2025-2026.
2026-2027	Sept. 1, 2027	Students entering grade 9 in 2025-2026 and students entering grade 9 in 2026-2027.
2027-2028	Sept. 1, 2028	Students entering grade 9 in 2025-2026, students entering grade 9 in 2026-2027 and students entering grade 9 in 2027-2028.
2028-2029	Sept. 1, 2029	Students entering grade 9 in 2025-2026, students entering grade 9 in 2026-2027, students entering grade 9 in 2027-2028 and students entering grade 9 in 2028-2029.
2029-2030 and so on	Sept. 1, 2030	Students entering grade 9 in 2026-2027, students entering grade 9 in 2027-2028, students entering grade 9 in 2028-2029 and students entering grade 9 in 2029-2030 and so on.

The First-Time Successful Completion Rate of the Civics Test

When entering the successful completion rate of the civics test, enter the number rounded to the nearest percentage point, for example, 80%. Here is an example of how to calculate the successful completion rate of the civics test:

- For example, if 100 students from the cohort of students entering grade 9 in the 2025-2026 school year took the civics test during the 2025-2026 school year and 80 of those students passed the test the first time they took it, the first-time successful completion rate would be 80 out of 100 (80/100), or 80%. "80%" would be entered into the survey.

The Average Number of Times a Student Takes the Civics Test for Successful Completion

This data should demonstrate the average number of times taken for the collective group rather than individual students. Therefore, the number provided should represent the cumulative average for grade 9 students in the 2025-2026 school year.

When entering the average number of times a student took to successfully complete the civics test, enter the number rounded to the nearest whole number, for example, 3.

- For example, if there are four students entering grade 9 in the 2025-2026 cohort that took the civics test during the 2025-2026 school year and it took them 8, 2, 4 and 6 times respectively to pass the test, that would be an average of 5 times that students took the test before passing (8+2+4+6=20, 20/4=5).

For students who take multiple academic years to pass the civics test, the student's average number of times to successfully pass the civics test would appear in the data of the year that the student passes the test.

For questions, email the KDE social studies team.

Suggested Answer Key and Test Question Alignment

Note: some of the suggested answers provided are subject to change. The information below as it pertains to the current president, representatives and/or senators, etc. is correct for the 2025-2026 school year.

Question	Suggested Answer(s)	Alignment to *KAS for Social Studies*	Grade	Subject as Identified by USCIS
What is the name of the national anthem?	• The Star-Spangled Banner	K.C.RR.2	K	Geography
When do we celebrate Independence Day?	• July 4	K.C.RR.2	K	Geography
What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?	• the United States flag	K.C.RR.2	K	Civics
Where is the Statue of Liberty?	• New York (Harbor) • Liberty Island [Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City and on the Hudson (River).]	1.C.KGO.2	1	Geography
Why does the flag have 13 stripes?	• because there were 13 original colonies • because the stripes represent the original colonies	1.C.KGO.2	1	Geography
Why does the flag have 50 stars?	• because there is one star for each state • because each star represents a state because there are 50 states	1.C.KGO.2	1	Geography

Question	Suggested Answer(s)	Alignment to *KAS for Social Studies*	Grade	Subject as Identified by USCIS
Name <u>two</u> national U.S. holidays	• New Year's Day • Martin Luther King, Jr. Day • Presidents' Day • Memorial Day • Independence Day • Labor Day • Columbus Day • Veterans Day • Thanksgiving • Christmas	1.C.KGO.2	1	Geography
Who is the Governor of your state now?	Verify based on election. • Andy Beshear	1.C.KGO.1	1	Civics
What is the capital of your state?	• Frankfort, KY	1.C.CP.1	1	Civics
Name <u>one</u> of the two longest rivers in the United States.	• Missouri (River) • Mississippi (River)	2.G.GR.1	2	Geography
What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?	• Pacific (Ocean)	2.G.GR.1	2	Geography
What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?	• Atlantic (Ocean)	2.G.GR.1	2	Geography
Name <u>one</u> state that borders Canada.	• Maine • New Hampshire • Vermont • New York • Pennsylvania • Ohio • Michigan • Minnesota • North Dakota • Montana • Idaho • Washington • Alaska	2.G.GR.1	2	Geography

Question	Suggested Answer(s)	Alignment to *KAS for Social Studies*	Grade	Subject as Identified by USCIS
Name <u>one</u> American Indian tribe in the United States.	• Cherokee • Navajo • Sioux • Chippewa • Choctaw • Pueblo • Apache • Iroquois • Creek • Blackfeet • Seminole • Cheyenne • Arawak • Shawnee • Mohegan • Huron • Oneida • Lakota • Crow • Teton • Hopi • Inuit	2.H.CH.1	2	History
Name <u>one</u> state that borders Mexico.	• California • Arizona • New Mexico • Texas	2.G.GR.1	2	Geography
Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?	• American Indians • Native Americans	2.H.CH.1	2	History
What is <u>one</u> reason colonists came to America?	• political freedom • liberty • religious freedom • economic opportunity • practice their religion • escape persecution	4.G.MM.1	4	History
What group of people were forced to migrate to America and sold as enslaved people?	• Africans • people from Africa	4.H.CH.1	4	History

Question	Suggested Answer(s)	Alignment to *KAS for Social Studies*	Grade	Subject as Identified by USCIS
There were 13 original states. Name three.	• New Hampshire • Massachusetts • Rhode Island • Connecticut • New York • New Jersey • Pennsylvania • Delaware • Maryland • Virginia • North Carolina • South Carolina • Georgia	4.H.CE.1	4	History
What is the supreme law of the land?	• The Constitution	5.C.CP.3	5	Civics
What does the Constitution do?	• sets up the government • protects basic rights of Americans • defines the government	5.C.CP.3	5	Civics
The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?	• We the people	5.H.CH.1	5	Civics
What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?	• The Bill of Rights	5.C.CP.3	5	Civics
What did the Declaration of Independence do?	• announced our independence (from Great Britain) • declared our independence (from Great Britain) • said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)	5.H.CH.1	5	Civics
What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?	• life • liberty • pursuit of happiness	5.H.CH.1	5	Civics
What is freedom of religion?	• You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.	5.H.CH.1	5	Civics
What is the “rule of law”?	• Everyone must follow the law. • Leaders must obey the law. • Government must obey the law. • No one is above the law.	5.C.CP.3	5	Civics

Question	Suggested Answer(s)	Alignment to *KAS for Social Studies*	Grade	Subject as Identified by USCIS
Name one branch or part of the government	• President • Executive Branch • Congress • Legislative Branch • Courts • Judicial Branch	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
Who is in charge of the executive branch?	• President	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
Who makes federal laws?	• Congress • U.S. Senate and House of Representatives • U.S. or national legislature	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?	• the Senate and House (of Representatives)	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
How many U.S. Senators are there?	• one hundred (100)	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years	• six (6)	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators now?	Verify based on elections • Rand Paul (R) • Andy Barr (R)	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
The U.S. House of Representatives has how many voting members?	• four hundred thirty-five (435)	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?	• two (2)	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
Name your U.S. Representative.	Verify based on elections. Answers will vary based on district but the options are as follows: • James Comer (R): District 1 • Brett Guthrie (R): District 2 • Morgan McGarvey (D): District 3 • Ed Gallrein (R): District 4 • Harold "Hal" Rogers (R): District 5 • Zach Dembo (D): District 6	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
Who does a U.S. Senator represent?	• all people of the state	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics

Question	Suggested Answer(s)	Alignment to *KAS for Social Studies*	Grade	Subject as Identified by USCIS
Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?	• (because of) the state's population • (because) they have more people • (because) some states have more people	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
We elect a President for how many years?	• four (4)	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
In what month do we vote for President?	• November	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
What is the name of the President of the United States now?	Verify based on election. • Donald Trump • Donald J. Trump • Trump	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?	Verify based on election • JD Vance • James David Vance • Vance	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?	• the Vice President	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?	• the Speaker of the House	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?	• the President	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
Who signs bills to become laws?	• the President	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
Who vetoes bills?	• the President	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
What does the President's Cabinet do?	• Advises the President	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics

Question	Suggested Answer(s)	Alignment to *KAS for Social Studies*	Grade	Subject as Identified by USCIS
What are <u>two</u> Cabinet level positions?	• Secretary of Agriculture • Secretary of Commerce • Secretary of Defense • Secretary of Education • Secretary of Energy • Secretary of Health and Human Services • Secretary of Homeland Security • Secretary of Housing and Urban Development • Secretary of the Interior • Secretary of Labor • Secretary of State • Secretary of Transportation • Secretary of the Treasury • Secretary of Veterans Affairs • Attorney General • Vice President	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
What does the judicial branch do?	• Reviews laws • Explains laws • Resolves disputes (disagreements) • Decides if a law goes against the Constitution	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
What is the highest court in the United States?	• The Supreme Court	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
How many justices are on the Supreme Court?	• nine (9)	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?	• John G. Roberts, Jr. • John Roberts	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. Name <u>one</u> power of the federal government.	• to print money • to declare war • to create an army • to make treaties Most other powers that are not given to the federal government in the Constitution belong to the states.	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is <u>one</u> power of the states?	• provide schooling and education • provide protection (police) • provide safety (fire departments) • give a driver's license • approve zoning and land use	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics

Question	Suggested Answer(s)	Alignment to *KAS for Social Studies*	Grade	Subject as Identified by USCIS
What is the name of the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives now?	Verify based on election. • Mike Johnson • (Mike) Johnson	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
What is the capital of the United States?	• Washington, D.C.	5.G.GR.1	5	Geography
Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?	• Thomas Jefferson	5.H.CH.1	5	History
When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?	• July 4, 1776	5.H.CH.1	5	History
Who is the "Father of Our Country"?	• George Washington	5.H.CO.1	5	History
Who was the first President?	• George Washington	5.H.CO.1	5	History
What stops <u>one</u> branch of government from becoming too powerful?	• checks and balances separation of powers	5.C.CP.2	5	Civics
What are <u>two</u> ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?	• vote • join a political party • help with a campaign • join a civic group • join a community group • give an elected official your opinion on an issue • call Senators and Representatives publicly support or oppose an issue or policy • run for office • write to a newspaper	5.C.RR.1	5	Civics
What happened at the Constitutional Convention?	• The Constitution was written. • The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.	5.H.CH.3	5	History
When was the Constitution written?	• 1787	5.H.CH.1	5	History
What is an amendment?	• a change to the Constitution • an addition to the Constitution	5.H.CH.1	8	Civics
What is <u>one</u> right or freedom from the First Amendment?	• speech religion assembly press petition the government	5.H.CH.1	8	Civics

Question	Suggested Answer(s)	Alignment to *KAS for Social Studies*	Grade	Subject as Identified by USCIS
How many amendments does the Constitution have?	• Twenty-seven (27)	8.C.CP.1	8	Civics
What are the <u>two</u> major political parties in the United States?	• Democratic and Republican	8.C.RR.1	8	Civics
What is the political party of the President now?	Verify based on elected official. • Republican (Party)	8.C.RR.1	8	Civics
There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe <u>one</u> of them.	• A male citizen of any race can vote – 15th Amendment • Any citizen (woman or man) can vote – 19th Amendment • You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote—24th Amendment • Citizens eighteen (18) and older can vote—26th Amendment	8.C.RR.2	8	Civics
What is <u>one</u> responsibility that is only for United States citizens?	• serve on a jury vote in a federal election	8.C.RR.1	8	Civics
Name <u>one</u> right only for United States citizens.	• vote in a federal election run for federal office	8.C.RR.1	8	Civics
What are <u>two</u> rights of everyone living in the United States?	• freedom of expression • freedom of speech • freedom of assembly • freedom to petition the government • freedom of religion • the right to bear arms	8.C.CP.2	8	Civics
What is <u>one</u> promise you make when you become a United States citizen?	• give up loyalty to other countries • defend the Constitution and laws of the United States • obey the laws of the United States • serve in the U.S. military (if needed) • serve (do important work for) the nation (if needed) • be loyal to the United States	8.C.RR.1	8	Civics
When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?	• April 15	8.E.MA.3	8	Civics

Question	Suggested Answer(s)	Alignment to *KAS for Social Studies*	Grade	Subject as Identified by USCIS
When must all men register for the Selective Service?	• at age eighteen (18) between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)	8.C.RR.1	8	Civics
Why did the colonists fight the British?	• Because high taxes (taxation without representation) • the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering) • they didn't have self-government	8.H.CE.1	8	History
The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name <u>one</u> of the writers.	• James Madison • Alexander Hamilton • John Jay	8.H.CO.2	8	History
What is <u>one</u> thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?	• U.S. diplomat • oldest member of the Constitutional Convention • first Postmaster General of the United States writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac" • started the first free libraries	8.H.CO.2	8	History
What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?	• the Louisiana Territory • Louisiana	8.G.HI.1	8	History
Name <u>one</u> war fought by the United States in the 1800s.	• War of 1812 • Mexican-American War • Civil War • Spanish-American War	8.H.CO.1	8	History
Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.	• the Civil War • the War between the States	8.H.CO.3	8	History
Name <u>one</u> problem that led to the Civil War.	• the institution of slavery • economic reasons • states' rights	8.H.CO.4	8	History
What was <u>one</u> important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?	• freed the enslaved • Emancipation Proclamation • Saved or preserved the Union • Led the United States during the Civil War	8.H.CE.2	8	History

Question	Suggested Answer(s)	Alignment to *KAS for Social Studies*	Grade	Subject as Identified by USCIS
What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?	• freed the enslaved • freed enslaved people in the Confederacy • freed enslaved people in the Confederate states • freed enslaved people in most Southern States	8.H.CE.2	8	History
What did Susan B. Anthony do?	• fought for women's rights fought for civil rights	8.H.CO.2	8	History
Name <u>one</u> war fought by the United States in the 1900s.	• World War I • World War II • Korean War • Vietnam War • Persian or Gulf War	HS.UH.CE.2	HS	History
Who was President during World War I?	• Woodrow Wilson	HS.UH.CO.3	HS	History
Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?	• Franklin Roosevelt	HS.UH.CE.4	HS	History
Who did the United States fight in World War II?	• Japan, Germany and Italy	HS.UH.CO.3	HS	History
Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?	• World War II	HS.UH.CO.3	HS	History
During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?	• Communism	HS.UH.CO.4	HS	History
What movement tried to end racial discrimination?	• civil rights movement	HS.UH.CE.5	HS	History
What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?	• fought for civil rights • worked for equality for all Americans	HS.UH.CE.5	HS	History
What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?	• Terrorists attacked the United States.	HS.UH.CO.5	HS	History
What is the economic system in the United States?	• capitalist economy market • economy	HS.E.MI.1	HS	Economics

Question	Suggested Answer(s)	Alignment to *KAS for Social Studies*	Grade	Subject as Identified by USCIS
How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?	• eighteen (18) and older	HS.C.PR.2	HS	Civics
Name one U.S. territory.	• Puerto Rico • U.S. Virgin Islands • American Samoa • Northern Mariana Islands • Guam	HS.UH.CE.2	HS	Geography

Civics Test and Question Samples

Since a local board of education will be expected to prepare or approve an assessment composed of questions from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test, the format of the exam can vary between districts. On the following pages, there are two versions of the 100-question exam to provide guidance to districts on the variety of formats they can implement. The first version provided is a short answer version of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test organized by subject area content. The second version provided is a combination multiple-choice/short-answer format that is aligned to standard progression. The extended response format version begins on page 18 while the multiple-choice/short-answer version starts on page 23.

In addition to the two full versions of the civics test, there are three document-based sample sets of questions that can be found starting on page 35. Questions originally found on the USCIS civics test serve as questions on individual documents, the basis of essay questions or as the content inspiration for these sample items. The documents provided are original to the source cited. No modifications have been made to these sources. As a result, local school districts may decide it is necessary to modify these documents to best meet the needs of the students.

Civics Test Extended Response Format

Government

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
2. What does the Constitution do?
3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
4. What is an amendment?
5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?
7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?

9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

10. What is freedom of religion?

11. What is the “rule of law”?

12. Name one branch or part of the government:

13. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

14. Who is in charge of the executive branch?

15. Who makes federal laws?

16. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?

17. How many U.S. Senators are there?

18. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?

19. Who is one of your state’s U.S. Senators now?

20. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

21. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?

22. Name your U.S. Representative.

23. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

24. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

25. We elect a President for how many years?

26. In what month do we vote for President?

27. What is the name of the President of the United States now?

28. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?

29. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

30. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
31. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
32. Who signs bills to become laws?
33. Who vetoes bills?
34. What does the President's Cabinet do?
35. What are two Cabinet-level positions?
36. What does the judicial branch do?
37. What is the highest court in the United States?
38. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
39. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?
40. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?
41. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?
42. Who is the Governor of your state now?
43. What is the capital of your state?
44. What are the two major political parties in the United States?
45. What is the political party of the President now?
46. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?
47. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.
48. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?
49. Name one right only for United States citizens.
50. What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?

51. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

52. What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?

53. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?

54. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?

55. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?

56. When must all men register for the Selective Service?

U.S. History

57. What is one reason colonists came to America?

58. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

59. What group of people were forced to migrate to America and sold as enslaved people?

60. Why did the colonists fight the British?

61. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

62. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
63. There were 13 original states. Name three.

64. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

65. When was the Constitution written?

66. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.

67. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

68. Who is the “Father of Our Country”?

69. Who was the first President?

70. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

71. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s

72. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.

73. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

74. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?

75. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

76. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

77. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s

78. Who was President during World War I?

79. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?

80. Who did the United States fight in World War II?

81. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?

82. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?

83. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?
84. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

85. What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?

86. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States

Geography

87. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

88. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

89. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?

90. Name one U.S. territory.

91. Name one state that borders Canada.

92. Name one state that borders Mexico.

93. What is the capital of the United States?

94. Where is the Statue of Liberty?

95. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

96. Why does the flag have 50 stars?

97. What is the name of the national anthem?

98. When do we celebrate Independence Day?

99. Name two national U.S. holidays.

Economics

100. What is the economic system in the United States?

Civics Test Multiple-Choice/Short-Answer Format

Multiple Choice

1. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
   A. Chinese
   B. Russians
   C. Pacific Islanders
   D. American Indians

2. Who was the first President of the United States?
   A. John Hancock
   B. James Madison
   C. Benjamin Franklin
   D. George Washington

3. What was **one** important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?
   A. led the U.S. during the Civil War
   B. led the U.S. during the War of 1812
   C. led the U.S. during the American Revolution
   D. led the U.S. during the Mexican-American War

4. When is Independence Day celebrated?
   A. April 19
   B. July 4
   C. September 17
   D. November 11

5. Who is the "Father of Our Country"?
   A. Abraham Lincoln
   B. Thomas Jefferson
   C. Benjamin Franklin
   D. George Washington

6. What Ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?
   A. Arctic Ocean
   B. Indian Ocean
   C. Pacific Ocean
   D. Atlantic Ocean

7. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?
   A. fought for civil rights
   B. became the first black U.S. Senator
   C. established the Harvard Law School
   D. ran for President of the United States

8. Which of the following is **one** of the **two** longest rivers in the United States?
   A. Ohio River
   B. Potomac River
   C. Colorado River
   D. Mississippi River

9. What do Americans show loyalty to when saying the Pledge of Allegiance?
   A. the state where you live
   B. the United States of America
   C. the Declaration of Independence
   D. the President of the United States of America

10. Why did the colonists fight the British?
   A. because of high taxes
   B. because the British invaded France
   C. because the colonists wanted a new king
   D. because the colonists wanted religious freedom

11. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
   A. James Madison
   B. Abraham Lincoln
   C. Thomas Jefferson
   D. George Washington

12. Which of the following is an American Indian tribe?
   A. Huli
   B. Kikuyu
   C. Maori
   D. Navajo

13. Why does the American flag have 13 stripes?
   A. They represent the 13 original colonies.
   B. They represent the 13 signatures on the U.S. Constitution.
   C. They represent the 13 military heroes of the Revolutionary War.
   D. They represent the 13 members of the Second Continental Congress.

14. Why does the American flag have 50 stars?
A. One star for each state.
B. One star for each president.
C. One star for each original colony.
D. One star for each constitutional amendment.

15. What is the name of the national anthem?
A. God Bless the U.S.A.
B. America the Beautiful
C. My Country Tis of Thee
D. The Star-Spangled Banner

16. Which of the following are national U.S. holidays?
A. Columbus Day and Flag Day
B. Labor Day and Veterans Day
C. Memorial Day and Mother's Day
D. Valentine's Day and Thanksgiving Day

17. What is **one** reason colonists came to America?
A. education
B. better health
C. elect a new king
D. religious freedom

18. What was the name of the U.S. war between the North and the South?
A. Civil War
B. World War II
C. War of 1812
D. Revolutionary War

19. Which of the following reasons led to the Civil War?
A. taxes
B. the institution of slavery
C. oil rights
D. religious freedom

20. What did Susan B. Anthony do?
A. founded the Red Cross
B. fought for women's rights
C. made the first American flag
D. established a college for women

21. Where is the Statue of Liberty located?
A. Boston, MA
B. New York, NY
C. Washington, DC
D. San Francisco, CA

22. What is the deadline for filing federal income tax forms?
A. April 15
B. June 30
C. September 15
D. December 31

23. Who did the United States fight in World War II?
A. Japan, Germany, and Italy
B. Japan, Germany, and France
C. Russia, China, and Japan
D. Russia, France, and Great Britain

24. Which of the following wars was fought by the United States in the 1800s?
A. Korean War
B. World War I
C. Spanish-American War
D. French and Indian War

25. Who is in charge of the executive branch?
A. the President
B. the Chief Justice
C. the Majority Leader
D. the Speaker of the House

26. What does the judicial branch do?
A. amends the Constitution and overturns laws
B. decides if a law goes against the Constitution
C. stipulates the number of Supreme Court Justices
D. provides legal advice to the President and his staff

27. Which of the following includes **two** ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?
A. vote and run for office
B. read a newspaper and volunteer at the local food bank
C. get a driver's license and purchase real estate property
D. go to college and start a career

28. What group of people were forced to migrate to America and sold as enslaved people?
A. Africans
B. Canadians
C. Spaniards
D. Italians

29. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
A. July 4, 1770
B. July 4, 1776
C. July 4, 1870
D. July 4, 1876

30. Which of the following includes **three** of the 13 original states?
A. Georgia, Indiana, New York
B. Maine, Ohio, and West Virginia
C. Vermont, Florida, and Pennsylvania
D. Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina

31. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
A. The Constitution was written.
B. The Constitution was ratified.
C. The Magna Carta was signed.
D. The Declaration of Independence was written.

32. When was the U.S. Constitution written?
A. 1776
B. 1787
C. 1812
D. 1865

33. What is **one** thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?
A. decorated war general
B. inventor of the telegraph
C. fourth president of the United States
D. oldest member of the Constitutional Convention

34. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
A. Alaska
B. Florida
C. Hawaii
D. Louisiana

35. What is **one** promise made when becoming a citizen of the United States of America?
A. to register to vote
B. to get an education
C. to join a political party
D. to defend the U.S. Constitution

36. When must all men register for the Selective Service?
A. at birth
B. at age 16
C. at age 18
D. men no longer have to register

37. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
A. called for an end to the Civil War
B. called for the creation of state borders
C. called for an end to Southern Secession
D. called for the freeing of enslaved people in the Confederate States

38. Who was the President during World War I?
A. Warren Harding
B. Woodrow Wilson
C. Franklin Roosevelt
D. Theodore Roosevelt

39. What stops **one** branch of government from becoming too powerful?
A. the military
B. the Bill of Rights
C. checks and balances
D. the Federal Reserve

40. What is **one** responsibility that only applies to United States citizens?
A. pay taxes
B. obey the laws
C. serve on a jury
D. attend private school

41. Which of the following includes **two** rights of everyone living in the United States?
A. freedom to work and freedom of speech
B. freedom to work and freedom to make laws
C. freedom of speech and freedom of assembly
D. freedom to make laws and freedom of assembly

42. Which war was fought by the United States in the 1900s?
A. Civil War
B. World War I
C. Revolutionary War
D. Mexican-American War

43. What is the supreme law of the land?
A. the U.S. Constitution
B. the Articles of Confederation
C. the Emancipation Proclamation
D. the Declaration of Independence

44. What does the Constitution do?
A. sets up and defines the government
B. draws boundaries of congressional districts
C. sets codes of conduct for obeying local and federal laws
D. determines whether citizens are prosecuted to the full extent of the law

45. The idea of self-government is in the first **three** words of the Constitution. What are these words?
A. We the United
B. We the People
C. We the Citizens
D. We the Americans

46. What is an amendment?
A. a change to the Constitution
B. a preamble to the Constitution
C. an explanation of the Bill of Rights
D. an introduction to the Bill of Rights

47. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
A. the Preamble
B. the Bill of Rights
C. the Articles of the Confederation
D. the Declaration of Independence

48. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
A. declared freedom for the enslaved
B. declared equal rights for women
C. declared freedom from Great Britain
D. declared an end to the war with Great Britain

49. Which of the following includes **two** rights stated in the Declaration of Independence?
A. life and liberty
B. free speech and justice
C. bear arms and pay taxes
D. vote and pursuit of happiness

50. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
A. 10
B. 27
C. 36
D. 50

51. Who vetoes bills?
A. the President
B. the Majority Leader
C. the President Pro Tempore
D. the Speaker of the House of Representatives

52. What is the "rule of law"?
A. Everyone must follow the law.
B. Laws remain the same in every state.
C. Government leaders are above the laws.
D. Laws only apply to United States citizens.

53. What is **one** branch of the federal government?
A. governor
B. judicial
C. military
D. treasury

54. Who makes federal laws?
A. the Congress
B. the Supreme Court
C. the Attorney General
D. the Justice Department

55. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
A. the Vice President
B. the Secretary of State
C. the President Pro Tempore
D. the Speaker of the House of Representatives

56. Who signs bills to become laws?
A. the President
B. the Vice President
C. the Secretary of State
D. the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

57. What is the highest court in the United States?
A. the District Court
B. the Superior Court
C. the Supreme Court
D. the Municipal Court

58. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
A. the Secretary of State
B. the U.S. Attorney General
C. the President Pro Tempore
D. the Speaker of the House of Representatives

59. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is **one** power of the federal government?
A. to make treaties
B. to issue driver's licenses
C. to provide public education
D. to establish police departments

60. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
A. the President
B. the Secretary of Defense
C. the U.S. Attorney General
D. the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

61. What is the capital of Kentucky?
A. Louisville
B. Bowling Green
C. Lexington
D. Frankfort

62. What is **one** right that only applies to United States citizens?
A. speak freely
B. own a weapon
C. practice a religion
D. run for federal office

63. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?
A. starting at 16 years of age and older
B. starting at 18 years of age and older
C. starting at 21 years of age and older
D. starting at 35 years of age and older

64. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is **one** power of the states?
A. print money
B. create an army
C. issue passports
D. provide public education

65. Who is **one** of the authors of the Federalist Papers?
A. John Adams
B. James Madison
C. Thomas Jefferson
D. George Washington

66. Who was President during both the Great Depression and World War II?
A. Harry Truman
B. Calvin Coolidge
C. Woodrow Wilson
D. Franklin Roosevelt

67. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?
A. Civil War
B. Korean War
C. World War II
D. Spanish-American War

68. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?
A. colonialism
B. communism
C. imperialism
D. sectionalism

69. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?
A. civil rights movement
B. progressive movement
C. temperance movement
D. women's suffrage movement

70. What historical event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?
A. The stock market crashed.
B. Columbia space shuttled exploded.
C. Terrorists attacked the United States.
D. Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans.

71. What Ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?
A. Arctic Ocean
B. Indian Ocean
C. Pacific Ocean
D. Atlantic Ocean

72. Which of the following is a U.S. territory?
A. Cuba
B. Guam
C. Hawaii
D. Panama

73. Which U.S. state borders Canada?
A. Alaska
B. Connecticut
C. Oregon
D. Wisconsin

74. Which U.S. state borders Mexico?
A. Texas
B. Arkansas
C. Louisiana
D. Alabama

75. What is the capital of the United States?
A. Boston, MA
B. New York, NY
C. Philadelphia, PA
D. Washington, DC

76. What is **one** right or freedom from the First Amendment?
A. to vote
B. jury trial
C. free speech
D. to bear arms

77. What is freedom of religion?
A. Religious leaders are exempt from the law.
B. States may choose a religion for the people.
C. Religious institutions do not have to pay taxes.
D. People may or may not choose to practice a religion.

78. What is the economic system in the United States?
A. barter or trade economy
B. socialist or mutual economy
C. capitalist or market economy
D. communist or collective economy

79. What are the **two** parts of the U.S. Congress?
A. the President and the Cabinet
B. the Supreme Court and the Superior Court
C. the U.S. Treasury and the State Department
D. the Senate and the House of Representatives

80. How many U.S. Senators are there?
A. 25
B. 50
C. 100
D. 435

81. How many years are there in **one** term of office for a U.S. Senator?
A. 2
B. 4
C. 6
D. 8

82. The U.S. House of Representatives has how many voting members?
A. 265
B. 380
C. 435
D. 519

83. How many years are there in **one** term of office for a U.S. Representative?
A. 2
B. 4
C. 6
D. 8

84. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
A. all people in the United States
B. all people in the Senator's state
C. only the people in the state who voted for the Senator
D. only people who belong to the political party of the Senator

85. How is the number of U.S. Representatives chosen for each state?
A. by state location
B. by state population
C. by state geographical size
D. by state political affiliation

86. How many years are there in **one** term of office for a U.S. President?
A. 2
B. 4
C. 6
D. 8

87. In what month is the Election Day for President?
A. January
B. June
C. August
D. November

88. What is the main duty of the President's Cabinet?
A. set policy
B. make laws
C. advise the President
D. command the military

89. Which of the following includes **two** Cabinet-level positions?
A. Secretary of Education and Secretary of History
B. Secretary of Energy and Secretary of Motor Vehicles
C. Secretary of Human Affairs and Secretary of the Navy
D. Secretary of Homeland Security and Secretary of the Treasury

90. How many justices are on the U.S. Supreme Court?
A. 5
B. 7
C. 9
D. 11

91. Which of the following includes **two** major political parties in the United States?
A. Libertarian Party and Democratic Party
B. Progressive Party and Libertarian Party
C. Democratic Party and Republican Party
D. Progressive Party and Republican Party

92. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Which of the following is true?
A. Only citizens 21 and older can vote.
B. Only citizens with jobs can vote.
C. Only citizens 18 and older can vote.
D. Only citizens who pay taxes can vote.

Short Answer

93. Who is the current President of the United States?

94. Who is the current Governor of Kentucky?

95. Who is the current Vice President of the United States?

96. Name the two current U.S. Senators for the state of Kentucky.

97. Who is the current Chief Justice of the United States?

98. What is the political party of the current President?

99. Who is the current Speaker of the House of Representatives?

100. Name **your current** U.S. Representative.

Document-Based Sample Sets

Sample Set One

Sources:

- Library of Congress. (n.d.). *American Treasures of the Library of Congress*.
- Eighty-third Congress of the United States of America. (1954, June 14). *Joint Resolution of June 14, 1954, Public Law 83-396, 68 STAT 249, to Amend the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America*. National Archives.
- National Park Service. (n.d.). *"The Star-Spangled Banner"—From Song, to Anthem, to Icon*.

Part A

Directions: The task below is based on documents 1, 2 and 3. This two-part task is designed to test your ability to use historical documents to construct a response. Look at each document and answer the question or questions after each document. Use your answers to the questions to help write your essay.

Task:

- Part A: Read each document carefully and answer the question or questions after each document.
- Part B: Read the directions and write your essay. Use your answers to the questions in Part A, the information from the documents, and your background knowledge to write a well-organized essay in your own words.

Document One: Thirty-Six Star Flag



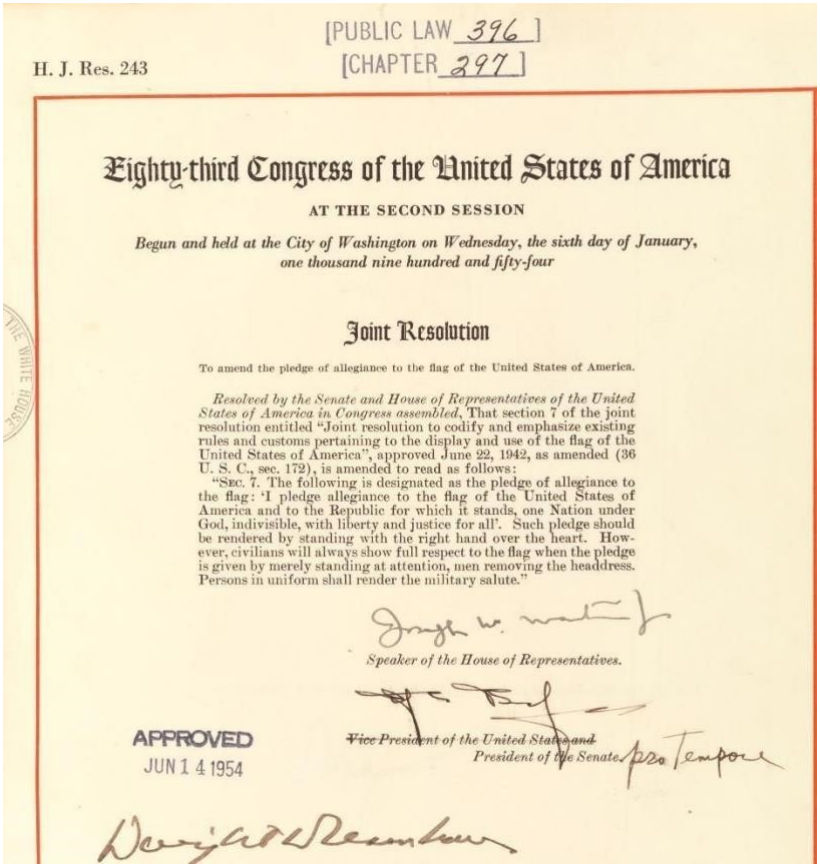
American Treasures of the Library of Congress

One can imagine that this American flag printed as a color woodcut on linen, celebrates the spirit of reunification in the heady days after the Civil War. It was created between the time in which Nevada became the thirty-sixth state on October 31, 1864, and the addition of Nebraska to the United States on March 1, 1867.

Although the Continental Congress passed a resolution that the flag consist of alternating red and white stripes and white stars on a blue ground on June 14, 1777, these design elements were used in a variety of permutations until 1912, when an executive order was issued that established the flag's current proportions. The thirteen red and-white stripes represent the original thirteen colonies of Virginia, Massachusetts, New York, Maryland, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Georgia, and the white stars stand for the states of the union. Throughout its history the flag has remained one of America's most powerful national symbols.

1) How many states made up the US when this flag was created? What piece(s) of evidence did you get from the document that helped you reach this conclusion?
2) What does this Thirty-Six Star flag symbolize?
3) When was the first resolution passed about the flag design of the United States of America?
4) Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
5) Why does the current United States flag have 50 stars?

Document Two: Joint Resolution of June 14, 1954



[PUBLIC LAW 396]
[CHAPTER 297]

H. J. Res. 243

Eighty-third Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

Begun and held at the City of Washington on Wednesday, the sixth day of January, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-four

Joint Resolution

To amend the pledge of allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 7 of the joint resolution entitled "Joint resolution to codify and emphasize existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America", approved June 22, 1942, as amended (36 U. S. C., sec. 172), is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 7. The following is designated as the pledge of allegiance to the flag: 'I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all'. Such pledge should be rendered by standing with the right hand over the heart. However, civilians will always show full respect to the flag when the pledge is given by merely standing at attention, men removing the headdress. Persons in uniform shall render the military salute."

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

~~Vice President of the United States and~~ President of the Senate pro tempore

APPROVED
JUN 1 4 1954

[Joint Resolution of June 14, 1954, Public Law 83-396, 68 STAT 249, to Amend the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America]

Document text is as follows:

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 7 of the joint resolution entitled "Joint resolution to codify and emphasize existing rules and customs pertaining to the display and use of the flag of the United States of America", approved June 22, 1942, as amended (36 U.S.C., sec. 172), is amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 7. The following is designated as the pledge of allegiance to the flag: 'I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all'. Such a pledge should be rendered by standing with the right hand over the heart. However, civilians will always show full respect to the flag when the pledge is given by merely standing at attention, men removing the headdress. Persons in uniform shall render the military salute."

1) What do individuals show loyalty to when saying the Pledge of Allegiance?
2) What are the rules and customs that civilians and members of the military should follow when the Pledge of Allegiance is being recited?

Document Three: Star Spangled Banner

Francis Scott Key, a young poet-lawyer, witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry while under British guard on an American truce ship in the Patapsco River. Seeing his country's flag still flying over the Fort the next morning, he was moved to pen these immortal lines:

O say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,

What so proudly we hailed at the twilight's last gleaming? Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight, O'er the ramparts we watched, were so gallantly streaming! And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air, Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there: O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

Summarize this poem. What did Francis Scott Key witness the morning after Fort McHenry was attacked?

1) This poem eventually evolved into the national anthem of the United States. What is the name of the national anthem?

Part B

Symbols can be any material such as an object, an image, or text that represent an idea. Some symbols important to the United States of America include the flag, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner. Using your knowledge of these symbols and information from documents in Part A, answer the following question: Are national symbols important to a country?

Sample Set Two

Sources:

- National Archives. (2023, August 14.). *The Constitution of the United States: A Transcription*.
- National Archives. (2023, April 21). *The Bill of Rights: A Transcription*.

Part A

Directions: The task below is based on documents 1 and 2. This two-part task is designed to test your ability to use historical documents to construct a response. Look at each document and answer the question or questions after each document. Use your answers to the questions to help write your essay.

Task:

- Part A: Read each document carefully and answer the question or questions after each document.
- Part B: Read the directions and write your essay. Use your answers to the questions in Part A, the information from the documents, and your background knowledge to write a well-organized essay in your own words. Part A

Document One: The Constitution of the United States

Note: The following text is a transcription of the Constitution as it was inscribed by Jacob Shallus on parchment (the document on display in the Rotunda at the National Archives Museum.) *The spelling and punctuation reflect the original.*

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Article. I.

Section. 1.

All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives. **Section. 2.**

The House of Representatives shall be composed of Members chosen every second Year by the People of the several States, and the Electors in each State shall have the Qualifications requisite for Electors of the most numerous Branch of the State Legislature. **Section. 3.**

The Senate of the United States shall be composed of two Senators from each State, chosen by the Legislature thereof, for six Years; and each Senator shall have one Vote.

Article. II.

Section. 1.

The executive Power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America. He shall hold his Office during the Term of four Years, and, together with the Vice President, chosen for the same Term, be elected, as follows.

Article III.

Section. 1.

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The Judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour, and shall, at stated Times, receive for their Services, a Compensation, which shall not be diminished during their Continuance in Office.

Questions:

1. The phrase “We the People” establishes that the power of the United States government comes from whom?
2. What do Articles I, II and III establish?

Document Two: The U.S. Bill of Rights

Note: The capitalization and punctuation in this version is from the enrolled original of the Joint Resolution of Congress proposing the Bill of Rights, which is on permanent display in the Rotunda of the National Archives Building, Washington, D.C.

Amendment I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Amendment II

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Amendment III

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Amendment IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Amendment V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Amendment VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Amendment VII

In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Amendment VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Amendment IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Amendment X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

Questions:

1. What does Amendment I prevent Congress from doing and what does this mean for citizens of the United States of America?
2. According to Amendment IV, what is needed to issue a warrant if a law enforcement official wants to search your property?
3. Amendment VI requires that individuals be guaranteed what in all criminal prosecutions?

Part B

Use evidence from the previous documents, the excerpt from the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, to answer the following question in an essay: what does the Constitution do?

Sample Set Three

Sources:

- Library of Congress. (n.d.). *British Reforms and Colonial Resistance, 1763-1766*.

- National Archives. (2023, January 31). *Declaration of Independence: A Transcription*.
- Teaching American History. (n.d.). *Resource Sheet #3*.
- Teaching American History. (n.d.). *Resource Sheet #4*.
- Library of Congress. (n.d.). *The Bloody Massacre*.

Part A

Directions: The task below is based on documents 1, 2, 3 and 4. This two-part task is designed to test your ability to use historical documents to construct a response. Look at each document and answer the question or questions after each document. Use your answers to the questions to help write your essay.

Task:

- Part A: Read each document carefully and answer the question or questions after each document.
- Part B: Read the directions and write your essay. Use your answers to the questions in Part A, the information from the documents, and your background knowledge to write a well-organized essay in your own words.

Document One:

The American Revolution and Its Era, 1750-1789 British Reforms and Colonial Resistance

When the French and Indian War finally ended in 1763, no British subject on either side of the Atlantic could have foreseen the coming conflicts between the parent country and its North American colonies. Even so, the seeds of these conflicts were planted during, and as a result of, this war. Keep in mind that the French and Indian War (known in Europe as the Seven Years' War) was a global conflict. Even though Great Britain defeated France and its allies, the victory came at great cost. In January 1763, Great Britain's national debt was more than 122 million pounds [the British monetary unit], an enormous sum for the time. Interest on the debt was more than 4.4 million pounds a year. Figuring out how to pay the interest alone absorbed the attention of the King and his ministers.

Nor was the problem of the imperial debt the only one facing British leaders in the wake of the Seven

Years' War. Maintaining order in America was a significant challenge. Even with Britain's acquisition of Canada from France, the prospects of peaceful relations with the Indian tribes were not good. As a result, the British decided to keep a standing army in America. This decision would lead to a variety of problems with the colonists. In addition, an Indian uprising on the Ohio frontier--Pontiac's Rebellion--led to the Proclamation of 1763, which forbade colonial settlement west of the Allegany Mountains. This, too, would lead to conflicts with land-hungry settlers and land speculators like George Washington ...

British leaders also felt the need to tighten control over their empire. To be sure, laws regulating imperial trade and navigation had been on the books for generations, but American colonists were notorious for evading these regulations. They were even known to have traded with the French during the recently ended war. From the British point of view, it was only right that American colonists should pay their fair share of the costs for their own defense. If additional revenue could also be realized through stricter control of navigation and trade, so much the better. Thus the British began their attempts to reform the imperial system.

In 1764, Parliament enacted the Sugar Act, an attempt to raise revenue in the colonies through a tax on molasses. Although this tax had been on the books since the 1730s, smuggling and laxity of enforcement had blunted its sting. Now, however, the tax was to be enforced. An outcry arose from those affected, and colonists implemented several effective protest measures that centered around boycotting British goods. Then in 1765, Parliament enacted the Stamp Act, which placed taxes on paper, playing cards, and every legal document created in the colonies. Since this tax affected virtually everyone and extended British taxes to domestically produced and consumed goods, the reaction in the colonies was pervasive. The Stamp Act crisis was the first of many that would occur over the next decade and a half.

Questions:

1) What was the financial impact of the French and Indian War on the British government?
2) Why was governing the American colonies becoming an increasing challenge for the British government?
3) How did the enforcement of the Sugar Act in 1764 and the enactment of the Stamp Act in 1765 strain the relationship between Britain and its colonies?

Document Two:

In Congress, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America, When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness... The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States...

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

...He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people...

...He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures... ...For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:...

...In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince whose character is thus marked by

every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people...

Questions:

1. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
2. Who is the intended audience of the Declaration of Independence?
3. What are the inalienable rights that the Declaration of Independence states are granted to all men?
4. Where does a government get its power according to this document?
5. The author of the Declaration of Independence states that the King of Britain violated the rights of the colonies through several tyrannical acts. Cite and explain three statements that describe why the author concludes that the King “is unfit to be the ruler of a free people...” For each statement provided, identify a specific incident, law, etc. from the period 1763-1776 that illustrates a specific instance where the King of Britain violated the rights of the colonists.

Documents Three and Four: Depositions Concerning Lexington and Concord, April 1775

Participant-observers in Massachusetts sent the following depositions concerning what they saw at Lexington and Concord to the Second Continental Congress:

[Affidavit] No. 1.Lexington, April 25, 1775.

We, Solomon Brown, Jonathan Loring, and Elijah Sanderson, all of lawful Age, and of Lexington, in the County of Middlesex, and Collony of the Massachusett Bay, in New England, do testifie and declare, that on the evening of the Eighteenth of April, Instant, being on the Road between Concord and Lexington, and all of us mounted on Horses, we were, about ten of the Clock, suddenly surprized by nine Persons, whom we took to be

Regular Officers, who Rode up to us, mounted and armed, each having a Pistol in His Hand, and after Putting Pistols to our Breasts, and seizing the Bridles of our Horses, they swore, that if we stirred another step, we should be all Dead Men, upon which we surrendered our selves. They Detained us until Two o'Clock the next morning, in which time they searched and greatly abused us; having first enquired about the Magazine at Concord, whether any Guards were posted there, and whether the bridges were up, and said four or five Regiments of Regulars would be in Possession of the stores soon; they then brought us back to Lexington, eat the Horses Bridles and Girts, turned them Loose, and then Left us.

Solomon Brown, Jonathan Loring, Elijah Sanderson.

Lexington, April 25, 1775.

I, Elijah Saunderson, above named, do further testifie and declare, that I was on Lexington Common, the Morning of the Nineteenth of April, aforesaid, having been dismissed by the Officers abovementioned, and saw a Large Body of Regular Troops advancing toward Lexington Company, many of whom were then dispersing. I heard one of the Regulars, whom I took to be an officer, say, "Damn them, we will have them," and immediately the Regulars shouted aloud, Run and fired upon the Lexington Company, which did not fire a Gun before the Regulars Discharged on them; Eight of the Lexington Company were killed while they were dispersing, and at a Considerable Distance from each other, and Many wounded, and altho' a spectator, I narrowly Escaped with my Life.

Elijah Saunderson.

Questions:

1) According to these documents, who were the aggressors in these incidents?
2) Do these sources present a bias? If so, why?
3) What evidence does Saunderson provide to indicate the British were in the wrong at Lexington Common?

Document Five



The Boston Massacre took place on March 5, 1770. Tensions between colonists and British soldiers stationed in Boston had been growing for months prior to the incident. On the night of March 5, 1770, a mob surrounded a British soldier, verbally insulted him and physically attacked him with clubs and snowballs. British troops fired on the crowd. Five colonists were killed. Paul Revere created this engraving three weeks after the Boston Massacre. His depiction was widely distributed throughout the colonies.

Question:

Taking into account the facts presented here and your analysis of Paul Revere's engraving, why is this document considered an example of pre-war propaganda?

Part B

Citing information provided in the documents as evidence, respond to this prompt:

Choose two of the following and analyze the importance of each as a cause of the Revolutionary War to answer the following question: Why did the colonists fight the British?

- economic factors
- political factors
- social factors
- propaganda