COULD *YOU* PASS THE CITIZENSHIP TEST

*An Attempt to summarize the basic concepts of American democracy*

For many naysayers, the process of becoming a citizen is too easy. Applicants, they believe, should know more about American history and how our government operates. Approximately ten years ago, on October 1, 2009 this is, in fact, what occurred. The citizenship test got much more difficult and required would be citizens to pass an exam consisting of 100 civics (history and government) questions. The civics test is an oral test in which the applicant must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test.

In addition to passing a reading and writing test of English proficiency, all immigrants going through the naturalization process must pass this new civics exam that some say is much harder than the test it replaced.

Now it’s your turn. Do you think you have what it takes to earn American citizenship? Try answering the following 50 questions I have selected from the new test and see if you have the knowledge required to become an American citizen (it takes a minimum of 30 correct responses to pass). If so, congratulations for paying attention in your social science classes and keep up the good work this coming year. If not, consider yourself lucky you were born here but beware, many states are starting to require passage of this test to graduate!

**1. What is the supreme law of the land?**

**2. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?**

**3. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?**

**4. What is** one **right or freedom from the First Amendment?**

**5. How many amendments does the Constitution have?**

**6. What are** two **rights in the Declaration of Independence?**

**7. What is the economic system in the United States?**

**8. Name** one **branch or part of the government.**

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

**10. Who is in charge of the executive branch?**

**11. What are the** two **parts of the U.S. Congress?**

**12. How many U.S. Senators are there?**

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

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

**15. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?**

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

**17. Name your U.S. Representative.**

**18. We elect a President for how many years?**

**19. What is the name of the President of the United States now?**

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

**21. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?**

**22. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?**

**23. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?**

**24. Who is the Governor of your state now?**

**25. What is the capital of your state?**

**26. What are the** two **major political parties in the United States?**

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

**28. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?**

**29. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?**

**30. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?**

**31. There were 13 original states. Name** three**.**

**32. When was the Constitution written?**

**33. Who is the “Father of Our Country”?**

**34. Who was the first President?**

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

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

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

**38. Who was President during World War I?**

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

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

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

**42. Name** one **of the two longest rivers in the United States.**

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

**44. Name** one **U.S. territory.**

**45. Name** one **state that borders Mexico.**

**46. What is the capital of the United States?**

**47. Where is the Statue of Liberty?**

**48. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?**

**49. Why does the flag have 50 stars?**

**50. What is the name of the national anthem?**