



US Naturalization Civics Test

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Practice Questions

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1. Who has the power to veto bills passed by Congress?

- A. The Senate Majority Leader
- B. The Supreme Court
- C. The Speaker of the House
- D. The President

2. How is the Speaker of the House of Representatives chosen?

- A. Chosen by the Senate
- B. Appointed by the President
- C. Selected by the Supreme Court
- D. Elected by the members of the House

3. What does the 'elastic clause' in the U.S. Constitution allow?

- A. Congress to pass laws necessary and proper for carrying out its powers
- B. States to nullify federal laws
- C. The President to declare war without Congress
- D. The Supreme Court to change the number of justices

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4. What does the term 'judicial review' refer to in the U.S. legal system?

- A. The annual evaluation of federal judges
- B. The review of judicial appointments by the Senate
- C. The power of courts to declare laws unconstitutional
- D. The Supreme Court's review of state laws



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5. What is the significance of *Miranda v. Arizona* in terms of rights?

- A. It established the requirement for reading Miranda rights to detainees
- B. It abolished the death penalty
- C. It upheld the principle of 'separate but equal'
- D. It granted the right to privacy

6. How can an amendment to the U.S. Constitution be proposed?

- A. By a presidential executive order.
- B. By a majority vote in the Supreme Court.
- C. By a national referendum with a simple majority.
- D. By a two-thirds vote in both the House and the Senate.

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7. Which Supreme Court case resulted in the 'one person, one vote' principle?

- A. *Marbury v. Madison*
- B. *Brown v. Board of Education*
- C. *Roe v. Wade*
- D. *Reynolds v. Sims*

8. The Suez Crisis of 1956 was a diplomatic and military confrontation involving Egypt and which other countries?

- A. Italy, Germany, and United Kingdom
- B. United States, Soviet Union, and United Kingdom
- C. United Kingdom, France, and Israel
- D. France, Spain, and United States

9. During the Battle of Tours, what tactic did Charles Martel use to defeat the Umayyad Caliphate?

- A. Archers
- B. Heavy infantry and shield wall
- C. Cavalry flanking
- D. Elephant charges

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10. The 1848 Revolutions, a series of political upheavals throughout Europe, included the March Revolution in which country?

- A. Germany
- B. France
- C. Italy
- D. Austria

11. Which strategy was predominantly used by the British against the Zulu Kingdom in the Anglo-Zulu War?

- A. Total warfare
- B. Control and contain
- C. Siege tactics
- D. Scorched earth policy

12. During the Battle of Gettysburg, what strategy did General Lee attempt on the third day?

- A. Direct assault on Union center
- B. Flanking maneuvers
- C. Defensive positions
- D. Night attacks

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13. What strategy did Genghis Khan use to expand the Mongol Empire across Asia?

- A. Psychological warfare
- B. Siege warfare
- C. Diplomatic alliances
- D. Mobile horse archers and rapid maneuvers

14. During World War II, which city was the target of the first atomic bomb?

- A. Nagasaki
- B. Hiroshima
- C. Tokyo
- D. Kyoto



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15. What was the main strategy of the Union Army in the American Civil War's early stages?

- A. Guerrilla warfare
- B. Blockade Southern ports and control Mississippi River
- C. Massive infantry assaults
- D. Trench warfare

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16. Which of the following rivers is the longest in the United States?

- A. Colorado River
- B. Mississippi River
- C. Yukon River
- D. Missouri River

17. What was a major impact of the Social Security Act of 1935 on American society?

- A. It privatized retirement savings
- B. It led to immediate economic stability
- C. It established a safety net for the elderly and unemployed
- D. It only impacted the wealthy

18. The 'Trail of Tears' refers to the forced relocation of which Native American tribe in the 1830s?

- A. Apache
- B. Navajo
- C. Sioux
- D. Cherokee

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19. What role does writing to elected representatives play in a democracy?

- A. It is generally ineffective and ignored
- B. It is only reserved for influential individuals
- C. It allows citizens to express concerns and influence policy
- D. It is less important than other forms of participation



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20. What was the primary economic activity in the Southern Colonies during the Colonial Period?

- A. Manufacturing
- B. Agriculture
- C. Fishing
- D. Mining

21. How did the Battle of Gettysburg (1863) impact the Civil War?

- A. It led to the immediate end of the war
- B. It marked the final victory for the Confederacy
- C. It was a turning point favoring the Union
- D. It had no significant impact on the war's outcome

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22. What was a significant outcome of the 1992 Los Angeles Riots in terms of civic action and awareness?

- A. Prompting an immediate end to all racial tensions
- B. Highlighting issues of police brutality and racial injustice
- C. Focusing solely on economic damages
- D. Having no lasting impact on civic awareness

23. Where did James Madison graduate from college?

- A. Yale University
- B. Harvard University
- C. Princeton University
- D. The College of William & Mary

24. Which President was the first to use a telephone in the White House?

- A. Rutherford B. Hayes
- B. Ulysses S. Grant
- C. James Garfield
- D. Chester A. Arthur

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25. Who was the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court during Marbury v. Madison?

- A. John Jay
- B. John Marshall
- C. Oliver Ellsworth
- D. Roger B. Taney

26. The acquisition of which territory completed the mainland territorial expansion of the United States?

- A. Gadsden Purchase
- B. Louisiana Purchase
- C. Alaska Purchase
- D. Oregon Territory

27. What was the name of the pamphlet written by Thomas Paine that argued for American independence?

- A. Common Sense
- B. The Crisis
- C. The Rights of Man
- D. Declaration of Independence

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28. Which document, adopted by the Second Continental Congress in 1777, served as the first constitution of the United States?

- A. Magna Carta
- B. Declaration of Independence
- C. Bill of Rights
- D. Articles of Confederation

29. What was the main impact of the Election of 1800 on U.S. politics?

- A. It marked the beginning of the Federalist Era
- B. It introduced the two-party system in U.S. politics
- C. It led to the first peaceful transfer of power between political parties in U.S. history
- D. It resulted in the creation of the Electoral College



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30. Which of the following was NOT a consequence of the California Gold Rush?

- A. Significant impact on Native American populations.
- B. Rapid population growth in California.
- C. The secession of California from the Union.
- D. Economic boom and increased statehood interest.



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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. D — The President

The President has the power to veto bills, which can then only become law if Congress overrides the veto with a two-thirds majority in both houses.

2. D — Elected by the members of the House

The Speaker of the House of Representatives is elected by the members of the House. This position is important in guiding legislation and maintaining order in the House.

3. A — Congress to pass laws necessary and proper for carrying out its powers

The 'elastic clause,' found in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, grants Congress the power to pass all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the enumerated list of powers. This clause allows for the expansion of Congress's powers.

4. C — The power of courts to declare laws unconstitutional

Judicial review is the doctrine under which legislative and executive actions are subject to review, and possibly invalidation, by the judiciary.

5. A — It established the requirement for reading Miranda rights to detainees

Miranda v. Arizona established the requirement for police to inform detainees of their rights, including the right to remain silent.

6. D — By a two-thirds vote in both the House and the Senate.

An amendment to the U.S. Constitution can be proposed either by a two-thirds vote in both the House of Representatives and the Senate or by a constitutional convention called for by two-thirds of the state legislatures.

7. D — Reynolds v. Sims

Reynolds v. Sims, decided in 1964, established the 'one person, one vote' principle, ensuring that state legislative districts are approximately equal in population. This case was pivotal in the realm of electoral fairness and representation.

8. C — United Kingdom, France, and Israel

The Suez Crisis of 1956 was a significant event involving Egypt, the United Kingdom, France, and Israel, following Egypt's nationalization of the Suez Canal.

9. B — Heavy infantry and shield wall

Charles Martel's forces at the Battle of Tours utilized heavy infantry in a shield wall formation to withstand and eventually defeat the Umayyad cavalry.

10. A — Germany

The 1848 Revolutions, also known as the Springtime of Nations, included the March Revolution in the German states, part of a series of democratic revolutions in Europe.



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11. B — Control and contain

In the Anglo-Zulu War, the British primarily used a 'control and contain' strategy to manage and limit Zulu movements, effectively isolating their forces.

12. A — Direct assault on Union center

On the third day of the Battle of Gettysburg, General Lee attempted a direct assault on the Union center, known as Pickett's Charge, which ultimately failed.

13. D — Mobile horse archers and rapid maneuvers

Genghis Khan's strategy for expanding the Mongol Empire involved the use of mobile horse archers and rapid maneuvers to outmaneuver enemy forces.

14. B — Hiroshima

Hiroshima was the target of the first atomic bomb, dropped by the United States on August 6, 1945, leading to Japan's surrender and the end of World War II.

15. B — Blockade Southern ports and control Mississippi River

In the early stages of the American Civil War, the Union Army aimed to blockade Southern ports and control the Mississippi River to cut off Confederate supplies.

16. D — Missouri River

The Missouri River, at about 2,341 miles, is the longest river in the United States. It is longer than the Mississippi River, which it joins.

17. C — It established a safety net for the elderly and unemployed

The Social Security Act of 1935 had a profound impact on American society by establishing a social safety net for the elderly, unemployed, and disadvantaged, revolutionizing social welfare.

18. D — Cherokee

The Trail of Tears was a series of forced relocations of approximately 60,000 Native Americans, including the Cherokee, from their ancestral homelands to designated Indian Territory, particularly tragic and consequential.

19. C — It allows citizens to express concerns and influence policy

Writing to elected representatives is a way for citizens to express their concerns, opinions, and influence policy decisions in a democracy.

20. B — Agriculture

The economy of the Southern Colonies during the Colonial Period was predominantly agricultural, particularly the cultivation of crops like tobacco, rice, and indigo.

21. C — It was a turning point favoring the Union

The Battle of Gettysburg in 1863 is often cited as a turning point in the Civil War, marking a significant defeat for the Confederacy and bolstering the Union's position.

22. B — Highlighting issues of police brutality and racial injustice

The 1992 Los Angeles Riots brought widespread attention to issues of police brutality and racial injustice, leading to increased civic action and awareness in these areas.



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23. C — Princeton University

James Madison graduated from Princeton University (then known as the College of New Jersey).

24. A — Rutherford B. Hayes

Rutherford B. Hayes was the first President to use a telephone in the White House. The phone was installed in 1879, and his first call was to Alexander Graham Bell.

25. B — John Marshall

John Marshall, serving as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, presided over the landmark case Marbury v. Madison, establishing the principle of judicial review.

26. A — Gadsden Purchase

The Gadsden Purchase in 1853, where the U.S. acquired land from Mexico (present-day southern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico), completed the mainland territorial expansion of the United States.

27. A — Common Sense

Thomas Paine's 'Common Sense,' published in 1776, powerfully argued for American independence from Britain, swaying public opinion and bolstering the case for revolution.

28. D — Articles of Confederation

The Articles of Confederation, adopted in 1777 and ratified in 1781, served as the first constitution of the United States, outlining the functions of the national government.

29. C — It led to the first peaceful transfer of power between political parties in U.S. history

The Election of 1800, known as the 'Revolution of 1800,' was significant for being the first peaceful transfer of power between different political parties in U.S. history, from Federalists to Democratic-Republicans.

30. C — The secession of California from the Union.

The California Gold Rush did not lead to California's secession from the Union. Instead, it caused rapid population growth, a significant impact on Native American populations, and an economic boom that led to California's statehood.



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