

**Civics Test** *Multiple choice/Short answer format*

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. 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 was taken to America and sold as slaves?

- 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 slaves 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 slaves
- 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 shuttle 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.

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.



