



National Immigration Forum

**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

National Immigration Forum

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**PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION**

A blueprint for the
NEW Naturalization
process

Naturalization Testing: Content Options

December 31, 1998

U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service
PricewaterhouseCoopers, LLP



Questions/Decision Regarding Writing the Statement of Work Naturalization Test Development

- 1) Should the oral test of English be included in the SOW? *yes*
- 2) Should history and government knowledge be tested in English? *not only*
- 3) Are we OK with multiple choice questions except for writing and speaking English? *no*.
 - questions can easily be fed into item banks to generate new test forms
 - easiest to score (machine scoreable)
 - could be translated to a computer testing context easily
 - [can be subject to memorization]

Terms:

Construct 1: Knowledge of U.S. History and Government necessary to become a naturalized citizen

Construct 2: Knowledge of English necessary to become a naturalized citizen.

Content Domains: Everything included in the constructs

Taxonomies: Information included in the content domains.

Elements: Individual "facts" included in the taxonomy

Proposed Task 1 for Contractor: Develop History and Government test

Deliverable 1: Developed two detailed taxonomies (1 each for history and government) of "knowledge" needed, based on general taxonomies provided by INS

- 1) How many topics will INS choose to put in the general taxonomy?
- 2) Need at least 1 item.(question) developed for each element
- 3) How many items do we want to include in the item "bank"? May want a "starter kit" to begin and then add items in later years.
- 4) How many questions should be on the test? (should have a minimum of 30 for reliability purposes).
- 5)
- 6) How many versions of the test do we want? (Related to the # of people taking the test—question memorization issues: minimum of 1.5 million/ year?) Army uses 6 for its recruitment; BP will have 3 (for only 10-15K people tested/ year).
- 7) These tests are not subject to test validity b/c they are not subject to empirical validation (no external criterion for being a "good" citizen).
- 8) Instead, will seek content/construct validity (are we measuring what we set out to measure)?
- 9) What weight/importance do we want to place on each element? Are some elements a "must" on each test?
- 10) What amount of information should people have to study (possible pool of questions/topic areas)
- 11) Do we think we can keep the test content secret? What if they became known? (public dissemination)

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A Guide to Naturalization



OMB NO. 1115-0195

INS is using this questionnaire to make *A Guide to Naturalization* more useful for naturalization applicants. Please take a few minutes to answer these questions and send the card back to us.

How much of *A Guide to Naturalization* did you read?

☐ All of it ☐ Most of it ☐ Some of it ☐ None of it

Did you use the Eligibility Worksheet?

☐ Yes ☐ No

How would you rate *A Guide to Naturalization*?

☐ Very helpful ☐ Helpful ☐ Not very helpful ☐ Not helpful at all

How would you rate the Eligibility Worksheet?

☐ Very helpful ☐ Helpful ☐ Not very helpful ☐ Not helpful at all

If you have any additional comments about INS or the naturalization process, please write them below:

Form M-477

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Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet

Instructions

What is the purpose of this worksheet?

The attached "Eligibility Worksheet" will help you decide if you are eligible to apply for naturalization. **You do not need to send the completed worksheet to INS. This worksheet is only for you to use to decide if you should apply for naturalization.**

Who **SHOULD** complete this worksheet?

Individuals 18 years of age or older who are thinking about applying for naturalization based on their years as Permanent Residents.

Who **SHOULD NOT** use this worksheet?

The following groups of people have different eligibility requirements for naturalization and **SHOULD NOT** use this worksheet to decide if they are eligible:

- Individuals under 18 years of age who want to apply for naturalization based on their parents' or adopted parents' citizenship (see questions 24-25 on pages 13-15 in *A Guide to Naturalization* for information on how to obtain citizenship).
- Permanent Residents whose spouses were U.S. citizens who died while on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces (see pages 18-19 in *A Guide to Naturalization* for information on your naturalization requirements).
- Individuals who want to apply for naturalization based on active duty service in the U.S. Armed Forces (see pages 18-19 in *A Guide to Naturalization* for information on your naturalization requirements).
- Spouses of U.S. citizens if the U.S. citizen is (a) a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, (b) an employee or contractor of the U.S. Government, (c) an employee of an American institution of research, (d) an employee of an American-owned firm, (e) an employee of a public international organization, or (f) a clergy member (see pages 20-21 in *A Guide to Naturalization* for more information).

Directions for the Eligibility Worksheet:

1. Answer the questions on the worksheet by checking "True" or "Not True." If you answer "Not True" to certain questions, you may be asked to answer additional questions on pages 3-4. Most applicants will **NOT** need to answer the questions on pages 3-4.
2. If you have completed the worksheet and believe you are eligible for naturalization, please call the INS Forms Line (1-800-870-3676) to request an application (Form N-400). A final decision will be made once you submit an application, take a citizenship test, and are interviewed.
3. If you have completed the worksheet and you still have questions regarding your eligibility, you should read *A Guide to Naturalization*. You may also wish to get advice from an immigrant assistance organization or immigration attorney.

Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet

1. I am at least 18 years old.

True

☐

Not True

☐

STOP → You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

2. I am a Permanent Resident of the United States, and I have been issued a Permanent Resident Card (formerly called Alien Registration Card).

☐
☐

STOP → You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

3. I have been a Permanent Resident for:

5 years
or more*

3 to 5
years*

less than
3 years

See Attachment A
on page 3

STOP → You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

True

Not True

4. During the last 5 years, I have NOT been out of the United States for 30 months or more.

☐
☐

STOP → For exceptions see Attachment B on page 3.

5. Since becoming a Permanent Resident, I have not taken a trip out of the United States that lasted for 1 year or more.

☐
☐

STOP → For exceptions see Attachment C on page 3.

6. I have resided in the district or state in which I am applying for citizenship for the last 3 months.

☐
☐

STOP → You must wait until you have lived in the state or district for 3 months to apply.

7. I can read, write, and speak basic English.

☐
☐

STOP → For exceptions see Attachment D on page 4.

8. I can pass the civics test.

☐
☐

STOP → For exceptions see Attachment E on page 4.

Go to question 9.

*INS allows naturalization applicants to file their applications 3 months before they have satisfied the "continuous residence" requirement.

Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet

	True	Not True	
9. I am a person of good moral character.	☐	☐  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.
10. One of the following is true: (a) I am female, OR (b) I am a male registered with the Selective Service, OR (c) I am a male who did not enter the United States under any status until after my 26th birthday, OR (d) I am a male who was born before January 1, 1960, OR (e) I am a male who was in the United States between the ages of 18 and 26 but who did not register with the Selective Service, and I will send a "Status Information Letter" from the Selective Service explaining why with my application.	☐	☐  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.
11. I have never deserted from the U.S. Armed Forces.	☐	☐  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.
12. I have never received an exemption or discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces on the grounds that I am an alien.	☐	☐  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.
13. I am willing to perform either military OR civilian service for the United States if required by law. (Note: if your religious teachings and beliefs prohibit you from performing military service, you must be willing to perform non-military service.)	☐	☐  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.
14. I will support the U.S. Constitution.	☐	☐  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.
15. I understand and am willing to take an oath of allegiance to the United States.	☐	☐  →	You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

STOP HERE: You are probably eligible to apply for naturalization.
Please call the Forms Line (1-800-870-3676) for an "Application for Naturalization" (Form N-400)
and be sure to read *A Guide to Naturalization*.

Attachment A — Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet

I have been a Permanent Resident for 3 to 5 years.

I am married to and living with a U.S. citizen.

True

☐

Not True

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

I have been married to that U.S. citizen for at least the past 3 years.

☐☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

My spouse has been a U.S. citizen for at least the past 3 years.

☐☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

During the past 3 years, I have *not* been out of the country for 18 months or more.

☐☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

If you answered "true" to all 4 questions, go to question 5 on page 1.

Attachment B

I have been out of the country for 30 months or more.

I am: (a) a person who has served on board a vessel operated by or registered in the United States, **OR**
(b) an employee or an individual under contract to the U.S. Government, **OR**
(c) a person who performs ministerial or priestly functions for a religious denomination or an interdenominational organization with a valid presence in the United States.

True

☐

Not True

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

If you answered "true," see pages 20-21 in *A Guide to Naturalization* to get more information and go to question 5 on page 1.

Attachment C

I have been out of the country for one year or more.

Since becoming a Permanent Resident, I have not taken a trip out of the United States that lasted for 1 year or more without an approved "Application to Preserve Residence for Naturalization Purposes" (Form N-470).

True

☐

Not True

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

Note: only certain people can use the N-470. See pages 18-21 in *A Guide to Naturalization* for more information.

If you answered "true," go to question 6 on page 1.

Attachment D — Naturalization Eligibility Worksheet

I cannot read, write, or speak basic English.

I am over 50 and have lived in the United States for at least 20 years since I became a Permanent Resident, **OR**

I am over 55 and have lived in the United States for at least 15 years since I became a Permanent Resident, **OR**

I have a disability that prevents me from fulfilling this requirement and will be filing a "Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions" (Form N-648) completed and signed by a doctor with my application.

Note: only certain people can use this exemption. See pages 26 - 27 in *A Guide to Naturalization* for more information.

True

☐☐☐

Not True

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

If you answered "true" to one of these questions, go to question 8 on page 1.

Attachment E

I have a disability that prevents me from fulfilling the civics requirement.

I have a disability that prevents me from fulfilling the civics requirement, and I will be filing a "Medical Certificate for Disability Exceptions" (Form N-648) completed and signed by a doctor with my application

Note: only certain people can use this exemption. See pages 26 - 27 in *A Guide to Naturalization* for more information.

True

☐

Not True

☐

You are not eligible to apply for naturalization.

If you answered "true" to the question, go to question 9 on page 2.

Naturalization Study Guide

To be eligible for naturalization, you must be able to read, write, and speak basic English. You must also have a basic knowledge of U.S. History and Government. See pages 26-27 in *A Guide to Naturalization* for more information about the English and civics requirements.

The questions on the next few pages are **examples** of questions an INS officer may ask you at your interview.

The sentences in this section are **examples** of the types of sentences an INS officer may ask you to read aloud or write during your interview.

Please remember that the questions and sentences in this study guide are **examples only**. The INS officer who interviews you may ask you to answer other questions or to read or write other sentences.

Sample Civics Questions

1. What are the colors of our flag?
Red, white, and blue
2. What do the stars on the flag mean?
One for each state
3. How many stars are there on our flag?
50
4. What color are the stars on our flag?
White
5. How many stripes are there on the flag ?
13
6. What do the stripes on the flag represent?
The first 13 states
7. What colors are the stripes on the flag?
Red and white
8. How many states are there in the Union (the United States)?
50
9. What do we celebrate on the 4th of July?
Independence Day
10. Independence Day celebrates independence from whom?
England
11. What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?
England
12. Who was the first president of the United States?
George Washington
13. Who is the President of the United States today?
Bill Clinton*
14. Who is the Vice President of the United States today?
Al Gore*
15. Who elects the President of the United States?
The Electoral College
16. Who becomes our President if the President dies?
The Vice President
17. What is the Constitution?
The supreme law of the land
18. What do we call changes to the Constitution?
Amendments
19. How many changes, or amendments, are there to the Constitution?
27*
20. What are the three branches of our Government?
Executive, Judicial, and Legislative
21. What is the legislative branch of our Government?
Congress
22. What makes up Congress?
The Senate and the House of Representatives
23. Who makes the Federal laws in the United States?
Congress
24. Who elects Congress?
The citizens of the United States
25. How many Senators are there in Congress?
100

* **Note:** the answers to questions marked with asterisks will change. Check to be sure you have the correct answer.

26. For how long do we elect each Senator?
6 years
27. Name the two Senators from your state.*
28. How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?
435
29. For how long do we elect each member of the House of Representatives?
2 years
30. Who is the head of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government?
The President
31. For how long is the President elected?
4 years
32. Name the highest part of the Judiciary Branch of our Government?
The Supreme Court
33. What are the duties of the Supreme Court?
To interpret and explain the laws
34. What is the supreme law of the United States?
The Constitution
35. What is the Bill of Rights?
The first 10 amendments to the Constitution
36. What is the capital of the state you live in?
37. Who is the current governor of the state you live in?*
38. Who becomes President if both the President and Vice President die?
Speaker of the House
39. Who is the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?
William Rehnquist*
40. What were the 13 original states?
Virginia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Hampshire, North Carolina, South Carolina, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Georgia
41. Who said, "Give me liberty or give me death?"
Patrick Henry
42. Name some countries that were our enemies during World War II?
Germany, Italy, and Japan
43. What was the 49th state added to our Union (the United States)?
Alaska
44. How many full terms can a President serve?
2
45. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?
A civil rights leader
46. What are some of the requirements to be eligible to become President?
Candidates for President must:
 - be natural born citizens,
 - be at least 35 years old,
 - have lived in the United States for at least 14 years.
47. Why are there 100 senators in the United States Senate?
Each state elects two
48. Who nominates judges for the Supreme Court?
The President
49. How many Supreme Court justices are there?
9
50. Why did the Pilgrims come to America?
To gain religious freedom
51. What is the head executive of a state government called?
Governor

Sample Civics Questions

(Continued)

52. What is the head executive of a city government called?
Mayor
53. What holiday was celebrated for the first time by American colonists?
Thanksgiving
54. Who was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence?
Thomas Jefferson
55. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
July 4, 1776
56. What are some of the basic beliefs of the Declaration of Independence?
That all men are created equal and have the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
57. What is the national anthem of the United States?
The Star-Spangled Banner
58. Who wrote The Star-Spangled Banner?
Francis Scott Key
59. What is the minimum voting age in the United States?
18
60. Who signs bills into law?
The President
61. What is the highest court in the United States?
The Supreme Court
62. Who was President during the Civil War?
Abraham Lincoln
63. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
It freed the slaves
64. What special group advises the President?
The Cabinet
65. Which President is called the "Father of our Country?"
George Washington
66. Which President was the first Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Army and Navy?
George Washington
67. What was the 50th state added to our Union (the United States)?
Hawaii
68. Who helped the Pilgrims in America?
The American Indians/Native Americans
69. What is the name of the ship that brought the Pilgrims to America?
The Mayflower
70. What were the 13 original states of the United States called before they were states?
Colonies
71. What group has the power to declare war?
Congress
72. Name the amendments that guarantee or address voting rights.
14th, 15th, and 19th
73. In what year was the Constitution written?
1787
74. What are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution called?
The Bill of Rights
75. Whose rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?
All people living in the United States

76. What is the introduction to the Constitution called?
The Preamble
77. Who meets in the U.S. Capitol building?
Congress
78. What is the name of the President's official home?
The White House
79. Where is the White House located?
Washington, DC
80. Name one right or freedom guaranteed by the first amendment.
The rights of freedom:
- **of speech,**
 - **of religion,**
 - **of assembly, and**
 - **to petition the Government**
81. Who is the Commander-in-Chief of the United States military?
The President
82. In what month do we vote for the President?
November
83. In what month is the new President inaugurated?
January
84. How many times may a senator or Congressman be re-elected?
No limit
85. What are the two major political parties in the United States today?
Democratic and Republican
86. What is the executive branch of our Government?
The President, the Cabinet, and departments under the cabinet members
87. Where does freedom of speech come from?
The Bill of Rights
88. What Immigration and Naturalization Service form is used to apply for naturalized citizenship?
Form N-400 (Application for Naturalization)
89. What kind of government does the United States have?
A Republic
90. Name one purpose of the United Nations.
For countries to discuss and try to resolve world problems or to provide economic aid to many countries
91. Name one benefit of being a citizen of the United States.
To obtain Federal Government jobs, to travel with a U.S. passport, or to petition for close relatives to come to the United States to live
92. Can the Constitution be changed?
Yes
93. What is the most important right granted to United States citizens?
The right to vote
94. What is the White House?
The President's official home
95. What is the United States Capital?
The place where Congress meets
96. How many branches are there in the United States Government?
3

Sample Civics Questions for Elderly Applicants

Persons over the age of 65 who are Permanent Residents and who have resided in the United States as Permanent Residents for at least 20 years have different requirements for history and government knowledge. They may also be tested in the language of their choice since they are exempt from the English literacy requirements.

1. Why do we celebrate the Fourth of July?
It is Independence Day
2. Who was the first President of the United States?
George Washington
3. Who is the President of the United States now?
Bill Clinton*
4. What is the Constitution?
The supreme law of the land
5. What are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution called?
The Bill of Rights
6. Who elects Congress?
The citizens of the United States
7. How many Senators are there in Congress?
100
8. For how long do we elect each Senator?
6 years
9. For how long do we elect the each member of the House of Representatives?
2 years
10. Who nominates judges to the Supreme Court?
The President
11. What are the three branches of our Government?
Legislative, Executive, and Judicial
12. What is the highest court in the United States?
The Supreme Court
13. What major river running North to South divides the United States?
The Mississippi River
14. The Civil War was fought over what important issues?
Slavery and states' rights
15. What are the two major political parties in the United States today?
Republican and Democrat
16. How many states are there in the United States?
50
17. What is the capital of the United States?
Washington, DC
18. What is the minimum voting age in the United States?
18

* Note: the answers to questions marked with asterisks will change. Check to be sure you have the correct answer.

19. Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?

A civil rights leader

20. What nation was first to land a man on the moon?

The United States

21. What is the capital of your state?

22. What is it called if the President refuses to sign a bill into law and returns it to Congress with his objections?

Veto

23. What two oceans border the United States?

The Atlantic and Pacific Oceans

24. What famous American invented the electric light bulb?

Thomas Edison

25. What is the national anthem of the United States?

The Star-Spangled Banner

Sample Sentences for Written English Testing

Civics/History	Everyday Life
A Senator is elected for 6 years. _____ is the Vice President of the United States. All people want to be free. America is the land of freedom. All United States citizens have the right to vote. America is the home of the brave. America is the land of the free. _____ is the President of the United States. Citizens have the right to vote. Congress is part of the American government. Congress meets in Washington, D.C. Congress passes laws in the United States. George Washington was the first president. I want to be a citizen of the United States. I want to be an American citizen. I want to become an American so I can vote. It is important for all citizens to vote. Many people come to America for freedom. Many people have died for freedom. Martha Washington was the first first lady. Only Congress can declare war. Our Government is divided into three branches. People in America have the right to freedom. People vote for the President in November The American flag has stars and stripes. The American flag has 13 stripes. The capital of the United States is Washington, D.C. The colors of the flag are red, white, and blue. The Constitution is the supreme law of our land. The flag of the United States has 50 stars. The House and Senate are parts of Congress. The people have a voice in Government. The people in the class took a citizenship test. The President enforces the laws. The President has the power of veto. The President is elected every 4 years. The President lives in the White House. The President lives in Washington, D.C. The President must be an American citizen. The President must be born in the United States. The President signs bills into law. The stars of the American flag are white. The Statue of Liberty was a gift from France. The stripes of the American flag are red and white. The White House is in Washington, D.C. The United States flag is red, white, and blue. The United States of America has 50 states. There are 50 states in the Union. There are three branches of Government.	He came to live with his brother. He has a very big dog. He knows how to ride a bike. He wanted to find a job. He wanted to talk to his boss. He went to the post office. His wife is at work right now. His wife worked in the house. I am too busy to talk today. I bought a blue car today. I came to _____ (city) today for my interview. I count the cars as they pass by the office. I drive a blue car to work. I go to work everyday. I have three children. I know how to speak English. I live in the State of _____. I want to be a United States citizen. It is a good job to start with. My car does not work. She can speak English very well. She cooks for her friends. She is my daughter, and he is my son. She needs to buy some new clothes. She wanted to live near her brother. She was happy with her house. The boy threw a ball. The children bought a newspaper. The children play at school. The children wanted a television. The man wanted to get a job. The teacher was proud of her class. The white house has a big tree. They are a very happy family. They are very happy with their car. They buy many things at the store. They came to live in the United States. They go to the grocery store. They have horses on their farm. They live together in a big house. They work well together. Today I am going to the store. Today is a sunny day. Warm clothing was on sale in the store. We are very smart to learn this. We have a very clean house. You cook very well. You drink too much coffee. You work very hard at your job.

Current Naturalization Fees

For applications received by January 14, 1999:

The fee for filing your naturalization application is:	\$95
The fee for having your fingerprints taken is:*	+\$25
	\$120

For applications received on or after January 15, 1999:

The fee for filing your naturalization application will be:	\$225
The fee for having your fingerprints taken will be:*	+\$25
	\$250

You must pay this fee with a check or money order drawn on a U.S. bank payable to the "Immigration and Naturalization Service." INS does not accept cash.

Residents of Guam should make the fee payable to "Treasurer, Guam," and residents of the Virgin Islands should make the fee payable to "Commissioner of Finance of the Virgin Islands."

You must send your fee with your application. Remember that your application fee is not refundable even if you withdraw your application or INS denies your case.

*If you are 75 years or older or if you are filing from overseas, DO NOT send the \$25 fingerprinting fee with your application.