

Name _____ Student ID _____

SF 369 High School Civics Test

The test is based on the most recent civics test developed by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Student Directions

Put everything away before you begin testing. Only your test book, answer sheet, and pencil/pen may be on your desk during testing. You may not access your cell phone or other devices during testing. Do not talk or work with other students.

Today, you will take a civics test to meet the requirements in Senate File 369. Write your student ID number on your answer sheet. For this test, you will answer multiple choice questions by circling the answer choice on the answer sheet. There is one question in which you will need to write out an answer on your answer sheet.

American Government Part A: Principles of American Government

1. What is the form of government of the United States?

- A. Republic
- B. Constitution-based federal republic
- C. Representative democracy
- D. All of the above

2. What is the supreme law of the land?

- A. The Magna Carta
- B. The Declaration of Independence
- C. The Constitution
- D. The Supreme Court

3. Name one thing the U.S. Constitution does.

- A. Defines powers of government
- B. Writes the laws
- C. Tells citizens what they have to do
- D. Controls the military

- 4. The U.S. Constitution starts with the words, “We the People.” What does “We the People” mean?**
- A. The people give up their power
 - B. Consent of the governed
 - C. Liberty for all people
 - D. The pursuit of happiness
- 5. How are changes made to the U.S. Constitution?**
- A. A vote in the state legislature
 - B. A vote in Congress
 - C. Through the court system
 - D. The amendment process
- 6. What does the Bill of Rights protect?**
- A. The Major Rights
 - B. The basic rights of people living in the United States
 - C. The human rights of people around the world
 - D. The rights guaranteed to all people in their state
- 7. How many amendments does the U.S. Constitution have?**
- A. 10
 - B. 27
 - C. 33
 - D. 52
- 8. Why is the Declaration of Independence important?**
- A. It declared an end to the American Revolution
 - B. It says all people are created equal
 - C. It made George Washington the first president
 - D. It created the three branches of government
- 9. What founding document said the American colonies were free from Britain?**
- A. The Magna Carta
 - B. The Articles of Confederation
 - C. The Declaration of Independence
 - D. The Constitution

10. Name two important ideas from the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution.

- A. Liberty and natural rights
- B. Civic engagement and natural rights
- C. Rule of law and self-government
- D. Checks and balances and self-government

11. The words “Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness” are in what founding document?

- A. Declaration of Independence
- B. U.S. Constitution
- C. The Magna Carta
- D. The Articles of Confederation

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

- A. Bear market economy
- B. Capitalist or free market economy
- C. Socialist economy
- D. None of the above

13. What is the “rule of law”?

- A. No one is above the law
- B. Leaders must obey the law
- C. Everyone must follow the law
- D. All of the above

14. Many documents influenced the U.S. Constitution. Name one.

- A. Declaration of Independence
- B. House Divided Speech
- C. The “I Have a Dream” Speech
- D. Arsenal of Democracy Fireside Chat

15. There are three branches of government. Why?

- A. Checks and balances
- B. To support what is outlined in the Articles of Confederation
- C. To model the U.S. government after that of Great Britain
- D. To ensure fairness

American Government Part B: System of Government

16. Name the three branches of government.

- A. Legislative, presidential, and courts
- B. Legislative, executive, and judicial
- C. Executive, defense, and judicial
- D. Executive legislative, and presidential

17. The President of the United States is in charge of which branch of government?

- A. Executive
- B. Legislative
- C. Courts
- D. Judicial

18. What part of the federal government writes laws?

- A. Court system
- B. Congress
- C. Executive branch
- D. The President's Cabinet

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

- A. The Senate and the President
- B. The Senate and the House of Representatives
- C. The Supreme Court and the President
- D. The FBI and the CIA

20. Name one power of the U.S. Congress.

- A. Declares war
- B. Signs laws
- C. Issues executive orders
- D. Determines if laws are fair

21. How many U.S. senators are there?

- A. 9
- B. 50
- C. 100
- D. 435

22. How long is a term for a U.S. senator?

- A. 2 years
- B. 6 years
- C. 8 years
- D. 12 years

23. Who is one of your state's U.S. senators now?

- A. Chuck Grassley
- B. Zach Nunn
- C. Tom Harkin
- D. Ashley Hinson

24. How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?

- A. 9
- B. 50
- C. 100
- D. 435

25. How long is a term for a member of the House of Representatives?

- A. 2 years
- B. 4 years
- C. 6 years
- D. 12 years

26. Why do U.S. representatives serve shorter terms than U.S. senators?

- A. To ensure there are always new members in Congress
- B. To more closely follow public opinion
- C. To balance the number of people up for election
- D. To make voting easier

27. How many senators does each state have?

- A. 2
- B. 3
- C. 4
- D. Depends on the population of the state

28. Why does each state have two senators?

- A. To make sure large states have more power in Congress
- B. Equal representation for smaller states
- C. To ensure there are a certain number of senators in the U.S. Senate
- D. To make sure every branch of government has equal members

29. Name your U.S. Representative. _____

30. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

- A. Nancy Pelosi
- B. Mike Johnson
- C. John Boehner
- D. Paul Ryan

31. Who does a U.S. senator represent?

- A. People of their state
- B. A region of their state
- C. A region of the U.S.
- D. All of the above

32. Who elects U.S. senators?

- A. The Governor of the state
- B. Citizens from their state
- C. District court judges
- D. Members of the House of Representatives

33. Who does a member of the House of Representatives represent?

- A. People from their congressional district
- B. People from a specific state
- C. People across the United States
- D. People who live in the District of Columbia (D.C.)

34. Who elects members of the House of Representatives?

- A. Only people from specific states
- B. People across the United States
- C. Citizens from their congressional district
- D. People who live in the District of Columbia (D.C.)

35. Some states have more representatives than other states. Why?

- A. Because they are geographically larger than others
- B. Because of the state's population
- C. Because they are required to pay more federal taxes than others
- D. Because they joined the United States earlier than others

36. The President of the United States is elected for how many years?

- A. 2
- B. 4
- C. 6
- D. 8

37. The President of the United States can serve only two terms. Why?

- A. Because of the 21st Amendment
- B. Because of the 22nd Amendment
- C. Because it says so in the U.S. Constitution
- D. Because the Framers wanted to limit the president's powers

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

- A. Donald Trump
- B. George W. Bush
- C. Barack Obama
- D. Joe Biden

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

- A. Tim Kaine
- B. Kamala Harris
- C. Joe Biden
- D. JD Vance

40. If the president can no longer serve, who becomes president?

- A. The Secretary of State
- B. The Speaker of the House
- C. The Vice President
- D. The First Lady

41. Name one power of the president.

- A. Signs bills into law
- B. Vetoes bills
- C. Enforces laws
- D. All of the above

42. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?

- A. The President
- B. The Vice President
- C. The Secretary of Defense
- D. The Chief of Staff

43. Who signs bills to become laws?

- A. The President
- B. The Vice President
- C. The Secretary of Commerce
- D. The Senate Majority Leader

44. Who vetoes bills?

- A. The Speaker of the House
- B. The Vice President
- C. The First Lady
- D. The President

45. Who appoints federal judges?

- A. The Speaker of the House
- B. The President
- C. The Vice President
- D. The President's Cabinet

46. The executive branch has many parts. Name one.

- A. Congress
- B. Cabinet
- C. District courts
- D. Governors of each state

47. What does the President's Cabinet do?

- A. Veto laws
- B. Give money to the President
- C. Advises the President
- D. Make laws

48. What are two Cabinet-level positions?

- A. Secretary of State and Secretary of Education
- B. Secretary of Education and Secretary of Homeland Security
- C. Attorney General and Secretary of Agriculture
- D. All of the above

49. Why is the Electoral College important?

- A. It decides on who is elected president
- B. It writes and approves new federal laws
- C. It protects small states
- D. It decides cases about the Constitution

50. What is one part of the judicial branch?

- A. Supreme Court and Federal Courts
- B. Federal and State Courts
- C. Supreme Court and State Courts
- D. State and District Courts

51. What does the judicial branch do?

- A. Authorizes military action
- B. Decides if a law goes against the U.S. Constitution
- C. Write and pass new legislation
- D. Serve as local law enforcement

52. What is the highest court in the United States?

- A. The State Supreme Court
- B. The Federal Court
- C. Military tribunals
- D. The Supreme Court

53. How many seats are on the Supreme Court?

- A. 6
- B. 9
- C. 15
- D. 18

54. How many Supreme Court justices are usually needed to decide a case?

- A. 3
- B. 5
- C. 7
- D. 9

55. How long do Supreme Court justices serve?

- A. For 10 years
- B. For 25 years
- C. For 30 years
- D. For life

56. Supreme Court justices serve for life. Why?

- A. To limit outside political influence
- B. To limit the need to appoint new justices
- C. To limit presidential power
- D. Because that's what was stated in the Declaration of Independence

57. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?

- A. Antonin Scalia
- B. Sandra Day O'Connor
- C. John Roberts
- D. Sonia Sotomayor

58. Name one power that is only for the federal government.

- A. Provide schooling and education
- B. Declare war
- C. Provide safety
- D. Approve land use

59. Name one power that is only for the states.

- A. Create an army
- B. Make treaties
- C. Print money
- D. Give a driver's license

60. What is the purpose of the 10th Amendment?

- A. It states that the powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or to the people
- B. It states that the government can't force you to testify against yourself
- C. It protects people from unreasonable searches and seizures
- D. It prohibits the quartering of soldiers in private homes

61. Who is the governor of your state now?

- A. Kim Reynolds
- B. Terry Branstad
- C. Donald Trump
- D. Robert Ray

62. What is the capital of your state?

- A. Burlington
- B. Des Moines
- C. Iowa City
- D. Sioux City

American Government Part C: Rights and Responsibilities

63. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

- A. Voting can only occur in April and November.
- B. Citizens 18 and older can vote.
- C. Naturalized citizens cannot vote in federal elections.
- D. To vote, you must pay a tax (a poll tax).

64. Who can vote in federal elections, run for federal office, and serve on a jury in the United States?

- A. U.S. citizens
- B. Anyone living in the United States
- C. Anyone who would like to vote
- D. Only those born in the United States

65. What are three rights of everyone living in the United States?

- A. Right to pursue happiness, right to succeed and freedom of expression
- B. Freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom to petition the government
- C. Right to a job, freedom of expression and freedom to petition the government
- D. Freedom of religion, right to bear arms, and right to health care

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

- A. The President
- B. The Congress
- C. The U.S. Military
- D. The flag of the United States

67. Name two promises that new citizens make in the Oath of Allegiance.

- A. Give up loyalty to other countries and defend the U.S. Constitution
- B. Defend the U.S. Constitution and volunteer in your local community
- C. Obey the laws of the United States and engage in mandatory military service
- D. Vote in every election and defend the U.S. Constitution

68. How can people become United States citizens?

- A. Naturalize or be born in the United States
- B. Pay a lot of money
- C. Serve in the military for one year
- D. By voting in a national election

69. What are two examples of civic participation in the United States?

- A. Vote or run for office
- B. Join a political party or help with a campaign
- C. Join a civic or community group
- D. All of the above

70. What is one way Americans can serve their country?

- A. Visiting the nation's capital
- B. Watching the news everyday
- C. Being good neighbors in their community
- D. Voting

71. Why is it important to pay federal taxes?

- A. Required by law
- B. To be able to decide who becomes president
- C. To be able to vote
- D. To be able to support the ideals of the country

72. It is important for all men age 18 through 25 to register for the Selective Service. Name one reason why.

- A. Can't go to postsecondary programs without registering
- B. Required by law
- C. Can't vote without registering
- D. Must pay higher taxes if you don't register

American History Part A: Colonial Period and Independence

73. The colonists came to America for many reasons. Name one.

- A. Avoid taxes
- B. Health care
- C. Religious freedom
- D. Education

74. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

- A. The English
- B. Native Americans
- C. The French
- D. Vikings

75. What group of people was taken and sold as slaves?

- A. People from India
- B. People from Northern Europe
- C. People from Africa
- D. People from Australia

76. What war did Americans fight to win independence from Britain?

- A. The French and Indian War
- B. The American Revolution
- C. The War of 1812
- D. The Civil War

77. Name one reason why the Americans declared independence from Britain.

- A. Taxation without representation
- B. Because they wanted a new King
- C. Because the British invaded France
- D. They wanted control of British land

78. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

- A. Benjamin Franklin
- B. John Hancock
- C. Thomas Jefferson
- D. George Washington

79. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

- A. April 15, 1776
- B. July 4, 1776
- C. September 17, 1789
- D. December 7, 1941

80. The American Revolution had many important events. Name one.

- A. Adoption of the U.S. Constitution
- B. Declaration of Independence
- C. Battle of Gettysburg
- D. Shays' Rebellion

81. There were 13 original states. Name five.

- A. Vermont, Maryland, Florida, Utah, Connecticut
- B. Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Ohio, Missouri
- C. New York, Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia, Massachusetts
- D. Massachusetts, California, New York, Rhode Island, Illinois

82. What founding document was written in 1787?

- A. The Mayflower Compact
- B. The Declaration of Independence
- C. The Articles of Confederation
- D. The U.S. Constitution

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

- A. Ben Franklin
- B. John Hancock
- C. James Madison
- D. George Washington

84. Why were the Federalist Papers important?

- A. They supported passing the U.S. Constitution
- B. They supported declaring independence from Britain
- C. They supported adopting the Articles of Confederation
- D. They supported the federal regulation of money

85. Benjamin Franklin is famous for many things. Name one.

- A. Fourth president of the United States
- B. Governor of Virginia
- C. Fought in a famous battle during the American Revolution
- D. U.S. diplomat

86. George Washington is famous for many things. Name one.

- A. First president of the United States
- B. U.S. diplomat
- C. Writer of the Declaration of Independence
- D. President during the Civil War

87. Thomas Jefferson is famous for many things. Name one.

- A. President during the American Revolution
- B. Crossing the Delaware during the American Revolution
- C. Writer of the Declaration of Independence
- D. General of the Continental Army

88. James Madison is famous for many things. Name one.

- A. First president of the United States
- B. "Father of the Constitution"
- C. Writer of the Anti-Federalist papers
- D. First Secretary of State

89. Alexander Hamilton is famous for many things. Name one.

- A. One of the writers of the Federalist Papers
- B. Famous general in the American Revolution
- C. Helped write the Declaration of Independence
- D. Third president of the United States

American History Part B: 1800s

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

- A. Louisiana Territory
- B. Alaska
- C. Canada
- D. The Northwest Territory

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

- A. The Korean War
- B. World War II
- C. The Spanish-American War
- D. The American Revolution

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

- A. The Spanish-American War
- B. The Civil War
- C. The French and Indian War
- D. The American Revolution

93. The Civil War had many important events. Name one.

- A. Battle of Bunker Hill
- B. Emancipation Proclamation
- C. Battle of Yorktown
- D. Adoption of the U.S. Constitution

94. Abraham Lincoln is famous for many things. Name one.

- A. Facilitated the Louisiana Purchase
- B. President of the United States during the War of 1812
- C. Supported the Missouri Compromise
- D. Led the United States during the Civil War

95. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

- A. Ended World War II
- B. Created border states
- C. Freed slaves in the Confederate States
- D. Ended the American Revolution

96. What U.S. war ended slavery?

- A. The War of 1812
- B. The Civil War
- C. The Spanish-American War
- D. World War I

97. What amendment says all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are U.S. citizens?

- A. 1st Amendment
- B. 4th Amendment
- C. 14th Amendment
- D. 19th Amendment

98. When did all men get the right to vote?

- A. 1870
- B. 1872
- C. 1875
- D. 1877

99. Name one leader of the women's rights movement in the 1800s.

- A. Jeanette Rankin
- B. Elizabeth Cady Stanton
- C. Eleanor Roosevelt
- D. Rosa Parks

American History Part C: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

- 100. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.**
- A. The French and Indian War
 - B. The American Revolution
 - C. The Civil War
 - D. World War II
- 101. Why did the United States enter World War I?**
- A. Because Japan attacked the United States
 - B. To support Allied Powers (England, France, Italy, and Russia)
 - C. Because of the attack on Archduke Franz Ferdinand
 - D. Because of the sinking of the Lusitania
- 102. When did all women get the right to vote?**
- A. 1920
 - B. 1921
 - C. 1922
 - D. 1923
- 103. What was the Great Depression?**
- A. A time of deep sorrow for the United States, following the attacks on Pearl Harbor
 - B. Longest economic recession in modern history
 - C. Work to reconstruct the country after the Civil War
 - D. A time when workers protested working conditions
- 104. When did the Great Depression start?**
- A. Battle of Fort Sumter in 1861
 - B. Reconstruction period of 1865
 - C. Stock market crash of 1929
 - D. Bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941

- 105. Who was president during the Great Depression and World War II?**
- A. Thomas Jefferson
 - B. Bill Clinton
 - C. Franklin Roosevelt
 - D. Ronald Reagan
- 106. Why did the United States enter World War II?**
- A. Bombing of Pearl Harbor
 - B. Hitler's invasion of Poland in 1939
 - C. Concern over an increase of fascism around the world
 - D. Arguments with Japanese emperor Hirohito
- 107. Dwight Eisenhower is famous for many things. Name one.**
- A. General during World War I
 - B. General during World War II
 - C. President during World War I
 - D. President during World War II
- 108. Who was the United States' main rival during the Cold War?**
- A. Russia
 - B. Italy
 - C. Germany
 - D. Cuba
- 109. During the Cold War, what was one main concern of the United States?**
- A. Socialism
 - B. Economic downturn
 - C. Communism
 - D. Rise of dictators
- 110. Why did the United States enter the Korean War?**
- A. To stop the spread of communism
 - B. To stop the spread of socialism
 - C. To prevent the economic collapse of Korea
 - D. To prevent expansion of nuclear weapons

- 111. Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War?**
- A. To stop the spread of communism
 - B. To stop the spread of socialism
 - C. To prevent the economic collapse of Vietnam
 - D. To prevent expansion of nuclear weapons
- 112. What did the civil rights movement do?**
- A. Fought to expand women's rights
 - B. Fought to expand worker's rights
 - C. Fought to end racial discrimination
 - D. Fought to ensure fairness in housing
- 113. Martin Luther King, Jr. is famous for many things. Name one.**
- A. Fought for women's right to vote
 - B. Fought for worker's rights
 - C. Fought for a higher minimum wage
 - D. Fought for civil rights
- 114. Why did the United States enter the Persian Gulf War?**
- A. To overthrow the ruler of Iraq
 - B. To force the Iraqi military from Kuwait
 - C. To ensure democracy spread to the Middle East
 - D. Because the United States was attacked by Iraq
- 115. What major event happened on September 11, 2001 in the United States?**
- A. Terrorists attacked the United States
 - B. President Kennedy was assassinated
 - C. The Stock Market crashed
 - D. Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans
- 116. Name one U.S. military conflict after the September 11, 2001 attacks.**
- A. Battle of Inchon
 - B. Tet Offensive
 - C. Desert Storm
 - D. Global War on Terror

117. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

- A. Apache
- B. Cherokee
- C. Navajo
- D. All of the above

118. Name one example of an American innovation.

- A. Airplane
- B. Light bulb
- C. Assembly line
- D. All of the above

Symbols and Holidays Part A: Symbols

119. What is the capital of the United States?

- A. Washington, DC
- B. New York, NY
- C. Philadelphia, PA
- D. Boston, MA

120. Where is the Statue of Liberty?

- A. New York Harbor
- B. Niagara Falls
- C. Chesapeake Bay
- D. Boston Harbor

121. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

- A. Because there were 13 signers of the Declaration of Independence
- B. Because the Founding Fathers came from 13 different countries
- C. Because there were 13 original colonies
- D. Because there were 13 Founding Fathers

- 122. Why does the flag have 50 stars?**
- A. Because there is one for each colony
 - B. Because there is one for each original signer of the Constitution
 - C. Because there is one for each Founding Father
 - D. Because there is one for each state
- 123. What is the name of the national anthem?**
- A. Land of the Free
 - B. Coming to America
 - C. The Star-Spangled Banner
 - D. America the Beautiful
- 124. The Nation's first motto was "E Pluribus Unum." What does that mean?**
- A. The pursuit of happiness
 - B. Out of many, one
 - C. Liberty and justice for all
 - D. Freedom for all
- 125. What is Independence Day?**
- A. The country's birthday
 - B. The day the U.S. Constitution was signed
 - C. The day the colonists defeated the British
 - D. None of the above
- 126. Name three national U.S. holidays.**
- A. Labor Day, Arbor Day, and President Lincoln's Birthday
 - B. Memorial Day, Valentine's Day, and Arbor Day
 - C. Thanksgiving, Groundhog's Day, and President Kennedy's Birthday
 - D. Veterans Day, Independence Day, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- 127. What is Memorial Day?**
- A. A holiday to honor active duty U.S. military personnel
 - B. A holiday to remember sacrifices the U.S. has made in past wars
 - C. A holiday to honor soldiers who died in military service
 - D. A holiday to honor ancestors

128. What is Veterans Day?

- A. A holiday to honor people who have served in the U.S. military
- B. A holiday to remember the sacrifices the U.S. has made in past wars
- C. A holiday to honor those who have died during active military service
- D. A holiday to honor ancestors