Alternate Civics Exam

Senate File 369 (SF 369) became effective on July 1, 2025. The civics test is to be administered starting with the 2026-27 school year. 2025 Iowa Acts, Senate File 369 directs the Iowa Department of Education to develop a multiple-choice test comprised of all questions from the most recent version of the civics test issued by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, and distribute the test to school districts, accredited nonpublic schools, and charter schools.

A school district or accredited nonpublic school may modify the civics test for a student with an individualized education program (IEP), a Section 504 plan, or who is an English learner. For students with significant cognitive disabilities, the district or school may develop and administer an alternate assessment.

On the following pages, you will find three sample civics exams that may be used for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities that participate in the alternate assessments. These can be used as presented or can be modified to meet the individual needs of students.

(A) Alternate Civics Exam Sample

Example for students participating in alternate assessments.

American Government Part A: Principles of American Government

1. **The Declaration of Independence states:**

   a. All people are created equal, have rights to life, liberty and happiness.
   b. All people get a free home, car and health care.
   c. All people must serve in the military.

2. **Name 1 Amendment in the Bill of Rights.**

   a. Freedom of owning pets, speech and religion.
   b. Freedom of speech, press and driving.
   c. Freedom of speech, religion and the press.

3. **How old do you need to be to vote in the United States?**

   a. 18
   b. 21
   c. 25

American Government Part B: System of Government

4. **What are the three branches of government?**

   a. Legislative, Executive, Judicial
   b. Judicial, Courts, Defense
   c. Executive, Presidential, Governor

5. **Who is the current president of the United States?**

   a. Ronald Reagan
   b. Donald Trump
   c. Barack Obama

6. **Who is the current vice president of the United States?**

   a. J.D. Vance
   b. Joe Biden
   c. Kamala Harris

7. **Who is the current governor of Iowa?**

   a. Terry Branstad
   b. Donald Trump
   c. Kim Reynolds

American Government Part C: Rights and Responsibilities

8. Who can vote in elections?

a. U.S. citizens
b. Only those born in the United States
c. Anyone who wants to vote

9. What is one responsibility of a United States citizen?

a. Mow their lawns
b. Obey laws
c. Run for Congress

American History Part A: Colonial Period and Independence

10. Who was George Washington?

a. The first person to run for Mayor of Iowa
b. A movie star
c. The first President of the United States

American History Part B: 1800s

11. Who was president during the Civil War?

a. Abraham Lincoln
b. Thomas Jefferson
c. Bill Clinton

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

12. Martin Luther King, Jr. is famous for many things. Name one.

a. Fought for women's right to vote
b. Fought for workers' rights
c. Fought for civil rights

Symbols and Holidays Part A: Symbols

13. Which is the United States flag?

a. 
b. 
c. 

14. What is the capital of the United States?

a. New York, NY
b. Boston, MA
c. Washington, DC

15. What is the capital of Iowa?

a. Burlington
b. Mason City
c. Des Moines

(B) Alternate Civics Exam Sample

For students participating in alternate assessments.

1. **What type of government does the United States have?**
    a. Dictatorship
    b. Monarchy
    c. Democracy
2. **What are the three branches of government?**
    a. Legislative, Executive, Judicial
    b. Judicial, Courts, Defense
    c. Executive, Presidential, Governor
3. **Who is the current president of the United States?**
    a. Ronald Regan
    b. Donald Trump
    c. Barack Obama
4. **Who is the current vice president of the United States?**
    a. J.D. Vance
    b. Joe Biden
    c. Kamala Harris
5. **What is the capital of Iowa?**
    a. Burlington
    b. Mason City
    c. Des Moines
6. **Who is the current governor of Iowa?**
    a. Terry Branstad
    b. Donald Trump
    c. Kim Reynolds
7. **Who can vote in elections?**
    a. U.S. citizens
    b. Only those born in the United States
    c. Anyone who wants to vote

8. **Which is the United States flag?**

a. 

b. 

c. 

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

   a. New York, NY
   b. Boston, MA
   c. Washington, DC

10. **How old do you need to be to vote in the United States?**

    a. 18
    b. 21
    c. 25

(C) Alternate Civics Exam Sample

For students participating in alternate assessments.

1. **What type of government does the United States have?**

   a. Dictatorship
   b. Monarchy
   c. Democracy

2. **What is the capital of Iowa?**

   a. Burlington
   b. Mason City
   c. Des Moines

3. **Who can vote in elections?**

   a. U.S. citizens
   b. Only those born in the United States
   c. Anyone who wants to vote

4. **Which is the United States flag?**

   a. 

   b. 

   c. 

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

   a. New York, NY
   b. Boston, MA
   c. Washington, DC

6. **How old do you need to be to vote in the United States?**

   a. 18
   b. 21
   c. 25

7. **Match the branches of government to their roles.**

____ Executive Branch	A. Makes the laws
____ Judicial Branch	B. Enforces the laws
____ Legislative Branch	C. Explains the laws

8. Match the person to their current position.

____ President	A. J.D. Vance
____ Vice President	B. Kim Reynolds
____ Governor	C. Donald Trump