

Path to Citizenship

Review the eligibility rules and tests used in naturalization.

CE.6.f "reviewing the criteria and exam for naturalizing U.S. citizens."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each eligibility criterion in the passage. Circle every fact that tells which civics test is given and how it is passed.

A Naturalization Review

- ① Naturalization is the legal process through which a person who was not born a U.S. citizen may become one. An applicant must meet several eligibility rules before applying. In most cases, the person is at least 18 years old and has been a lawful permanent resident for at least five years. The applicant must show continuous residence, physical presence in the United States, and good moral character. Some spouses of U.S. citizens may qualify under different residence rules.
- ② At a naturalization interview, a USCIS officer reviews an application and tests required knowledge and skills. Most applicants must show an ability to speak, read, and write basic English. Some applicants may qualify for an exception to English requirements or receive a disability accommodation. The officer also gives a civics test about U.S. history and government. This test is oral, so the officer asks questions and the applicant answers aloud. Official USCIS materials help applicants prepare for the interview.
- ③ Which civics test an applicant takes depends on the date the person filed Form N-400, the naturalization application. Applicants who filed on or after October 20, 2025 take the 2025 civics test. An officer asks up to 20 questions selected from a bank of 128, and the applicant must answer at least 12 correctly. Applicants who filed before that date generally take the earlier 2008 civics test, which uses different rules. After approval, a person completes the Oath of Allegiance to become a citizen.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Name two common eligibility rules an applicant must meet before applying for naturalization.

2 What three basic English skills do most applicants need to show?

3 What is the maximum number of civics questions an officer may ask an applicant taking the 2025 civics test, and how many must be answered correctly?

4 An applicant filed Form N-400 in September 2025. Which civics test does the passage say the applicant generally takes? Explain why.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence preparation note for an imaginary applicant who filed Form N-400 on November 3, 2025. Include two eligibility criteria, the 2025 civics test format and passing score, and one other step or skill from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each eligibility criterion in the passage. Circle every fact that tells which civics test is given and how it is passed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two common eligibility rules an applicant must meet before applying for naturalization.	Any two: be at least 18 years old, be a lawful permanent resident for at least five years, show continuous residence, show physical presence in the United States, or show good moral character.
2	What three basic English skills do most applicants need to show?	Speaking, reading, and writing basic English.
3	What is the maximum number of civics questions an officer may ask an applicant taking the 2025 civics test, and how many must be answered correctly?	The officer may ask up to 20 questions. The applicant must answer at least 12 correctly.
4	An applicant filed Form N-400 in September 2025. Which civics test does the passage say the applicant generally takes? Explain why.	The earlier 2008 civics test, because the applicant filed before October 20, 2025.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Jordan is 30 years old and has been a lawful permanent resident for five years, so Jordan meets two common eligibility criteria. Because Jordan filed on November 3, 2025, an officer may ask up to 20 oral civics questions from the 128-question bank, and Jordan needs at least 12 correct answers. Jordan should practice basic English reading and writing and complete the Oath of Allegiance after approval.

For Question 1, accept any two criteria named in the passage. For the open response, accept different imaginary applicants if the response accurately gives two criteria, the 2025 test details, and one additional skill or step.