# GOVERNMENT AND LAW UNIT

## Intermediate Level

**This guide will take you through the Government and Law Objective 40.4.** The objective is to “Respond to questions about the History and Government of the United States in order to be successful in the naturalization process.”

Picture of a map of the United States.


## Before we begin:

## [Land Acknowledgement](https://www.csusm.edu/cicsc/land.pdf)

Before there was the United States, this was the land of the American Indians.

Let’s take a moment to honor the ancestral grounds where you are learning and

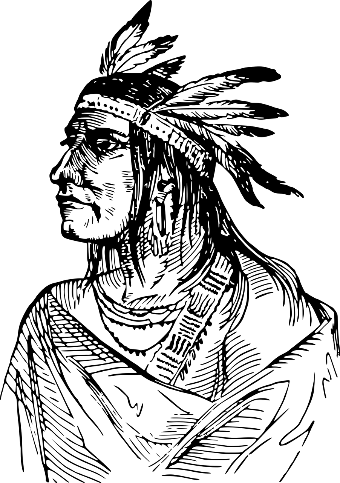
support the resilience and strength that all Indigenous (native) people have shown worldwide.

Please repeat with me:

*“We acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory and homelands of the Luiseno/Payomkawichum people.”*

[California Indian Culture](http://www.csusm.edu/cicsc)

Image: Luiseno Nation from <http://www.indigenouspeople.net/luiseno.htm>



The [Luiseño or Payómkawichum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luise%C3%B1o) are an [indigenous (native) people of California](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_of_California) who inhabited the coastal area of southern California, ranging 50 miles (80 km) from the present-day southern part of [Los Angeles County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Angeles_County,_California) to the northern part of [San Diego County](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/San_Diego_County,_California), and inland 30 miles (48 km). This was at the time of the first contacts with the Spanish in the 16th century,

## Introduction to Citizenship

##### Directions: Watch the video, take notes, and discuss the questions.

[**A Promise of Freedom**](https://youtu.be/so14G_BOPbI)**: An Introduction to U.S. History and Civics for Immigrants**

Created by the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

##### Before you watch the video:

* What do you know about becoming a U.S. citizen?
* What do you know about American history?
* What do you know about the government of the United States?
* What makes “Americans” and why do people want to come to the United States?
* Why did you want to come to the United States?

##### Part 1: Introduction

1. What is the U.S. Constitution?
2. What is the New World?
3. What are ‘settlers’? Are they the same thing as ‘colonists’?
4. When did they first come to the United States?
5. Where did the settlers come from?
6. What is the Declaration of Independence? What did it say?
7. What is the name of the war that settlers fought to become free from Britain?
8. What did George Washington do?

##### Part 2 After independence: Creation and changes to the U.S. Constitution

1. What did the people want to do in the meeting in Philadelphia?
2. What did the Constitution do that had never been done before?
3. What are the first 10 Amendments called?
4. Name 3 rights in the Bill of Rights
5. What are other amendments that were added?

##### Part 3 Responsibilities and rights of citizens

1. What are some responsibilities of being a citizen?
2. Taking the naturalization test

**Symbols of U.S. Government**

From Ben’s Guide to the Government:

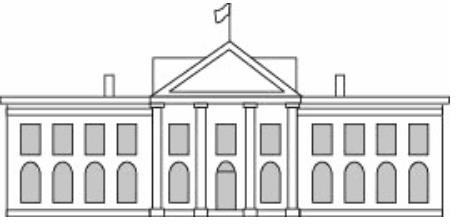
**The Flag**

The United States flag has 13 stripes. Seven are red and six are white. It also has 50 white stars on a blue background. The stripes represent the 13 original colonies. The 50 stars represent the 50 states in the U.S.

The first U.S. flag was designed in 1777. The flag has been changed many times since then. New stars are added each time new states join the union.

**The White House**

The White House is the home of the President of the United States. It is located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. Every President except George Washington has lived there.

The President’s office is called the Oval Office. Here the President does the business of the country. He signs bills and Executive Orders, and he meets with staff, visitors, and guests.

**Statue of Liberty**

Located in New York, at 151 feet tall, the Statue of Liberty symbolizes freedom throughout the world. The Statue was actually a gift from the people of France.

The statue represents a woman escaping the chains of tyranny, which lie at her feet. Her right hand holds aloft a burning torch that symbolizes liberty. Her left hand holds a tablet inscribed with the date "July 4, 1776," the day the United States declared its independence from England. She is wearing flowing robes and the seven rays of her spiked crown symbolize the seven seas and continents.

# Part 2

[**The U.S. Constitution and Amendments**](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/lesson-plans/BillofRights_handouts.pdf)

The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution in 1787. They wanted a “living document.” This means the Constitution can change as the country changes.

*A* ***change*** *to the Constitution is called an* ***amendment.***

In 1791, a list of ten amendments was added. The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the **Bill of Rights.** The Bill of Rights talks about individual rights. Over the years, more amendments were added. Now, the Constitution has 27 amendments.

### The Bill of Rights

The first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution are called the “Bill of Rights.” They were added as a group in 1791. These amendments guarantee rights to everyone living in the United States. These rights are considered basic to all individuals and cannot be taken away, not even by Congress. Though Congress makes new laws, it cannot make laws that go against the Bill of Rights. These rights are for everyone living in the United States.

The **First Amendment** protects the right of freedom of speech. People are allowed to discuss issues openly and have debates on public issues. This amendment also protects freedom of religion. It says that Congress cannot establish an official religion or limit religious expression. Freedom of religion means that you can practice any religion, or not practice a religion. Congress cannot limit the right of people to meet peacefully. It cannot limit the freedom of the press. The First Amendment also protects people’s right to petition the government to change.

**The First Amendment guarantees and protects these rights:**

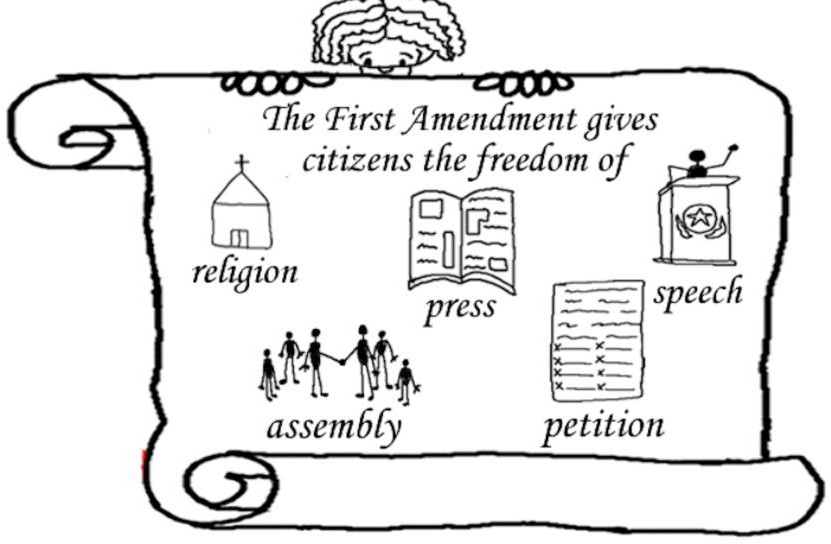


Image: <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/2083833.htm>

* **Freedom of speech:** You can say what you want about public problems.
* **Freedom of religion:** you can practice any religion or you can practice no religion
* **Freedom of assembly:** You can meet peacefully to talk about problems and ideas.
* **Freedom of the press:** The government cannot control what people write in newspapers and the media.
* **Freedom to petition the government:** You can ask the government to change laws.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AMENDMENT** | **SUMMARY** |
| 1st Amendment | Freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition *(see illustration above)* |
| 2nd Amendment | Freedom to bear arms |
| 3rd Amendment | Freedom from the quartering of troops |
| 4th Amendment | Freedom from unreasonable searches |
| 5th Amendment | Freedom from self-incrimination, double jeopardy (being tried for the same crime twice), and eminent domain (government can’t take your property without compensation) |
| 6th Amendment | The right to a speedy trial and an attorney |
| 7th Amendment | The right to a jury trial |
| 8th Amendment | Freedom from cruel and unusual punishment |
| 9th Amendment & 10th Amendment | The last two amendments state that the people have other rights besides those listed here and that the states and the people have any powers that the Constitution does not give to the federal government. |

###### Answer these Civics Test questions:

1. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
2. What is **one** right or freedom from the First Amendment?
3. What is freedom of religion?

###### Discuss these questions with your class:

Today, many Americans talk about their First Amendment rights.

1. Why do you think these First Amendment rights were so important to the writers of the Constitution?
2. In your native country, do citizens have the same rights?
3. Think of some examples how these freedoms apply to specific situations in your life.

### Matching Activity

###### Match the freedom (left) to the correct definition (right) found in the Bill of Rights.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Freedom** |  | **Definition** |
| 1. | Freedom of speech | A. | You can use a gun to protect yourself |
| 2. | Freedom of religion | B. | Police can look in your house only if they have a search warrant. |
| 3. | Right to bear arms | C. | More than one person will listen to you and decide if you are guilty. |
| 4. | Right to a speedy trial | D. | Government can’t tell you what to publish in the newspaper. |
| 5. | Double Jeopardy | E. | You can’t be held in jail for too long. |
| 6. | Freedom of assembly | F. | You can tell your concerns to the government. |
| 7. | Freedom from unreasonable searches | G. | You can’t go to jail twice for the same crime. |
| 8. | Right to a trial by jury. | H. | You can say what you are thinking. |
| 9. | Freedom of the press | I. | You can peacefully meet with other people to say if you disagree with something. |
| 10. | Freedom to petition | J. | You can decide if you want to attend a church or which church to attend. |

## Bill of Rights Activity

###### Directions:

Decide which freedom is being discussed and where it is found in the Bill of Rights (amendment). Fill in the blanks.

**Example One**

Lynn would like to go to the church she likes.

**Freedom Amendment**

**Example Two**

Andrew doesn’t like a new law. He wants to meet with a group of people to talk about it.

**Freedom Amendment**

**Example Three**

The police think Steve has drugs in his house. They can’t go into his house without telling him.

**Freedom Amendment**

**Example Four**

Sylvia went to jail for stealing videos. She can’t go to jail again for the same crime.

**Freedom Amendment**

**Example Five**

Jayne wants to keep a gun in her house.

**Freedom Amendment**

**Example Six**

Mark hit someone with his car. He will have a trial as soon as possible.

**Freedom Amendment**

**Example Seven**

Carol believes Michael took her jewelry. Michael says he didn’t do it. They can tell a jury what happened and the jury will decide who is telling the truth.

**Freedom Amendment**

**Example Eight**

Debbie has strong feelings about immigration. She writes a letter to the newspaper and they print it, even if not everyone at the newspaper agrees with

her.

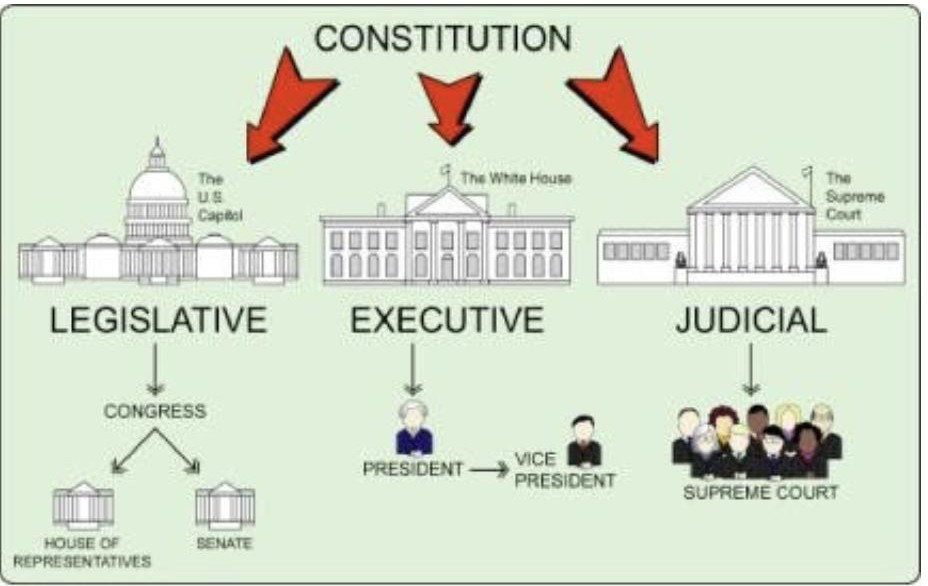
**Freedom Amendment**

## Three Branches of Government

From <http://bensguide.gpo.gov/3-5/government/branches.html>

Recommended resources from USCIS website:

* [Your Government and You Handouts](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/lesson-plans/Government_and_You_handouts.pdf);
* [The Executive Branch](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/lesson-plans/Executive_Branch_handouts.pdf);
* [The Legislative Branch](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/lesson-plans/Legislative_Branch_handouts.pdf);
* [The Judicial Branch](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/lesson-plans/Judicial_Branch_handouts.pdf)



#### Legislative Branch

The legislative branch of government is made up of Congress and government agencies. Congress has two parts, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Congress meets at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Its primary duty is to write, debate, and pass bills, which are then passed on to the President for approval.

#### Executive Branch

The executive branch of government makes sure that the laws of the United States are obeyed. The President of the United States is the head of the executive branch of government. This branch is very large so the President gets help from the Vice President, department heads (Cabinet members), and heads of independent agencies.

#### Judicial Branch

The judicial branch of government is made up of the court system. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the land. Courts decide arguments about the meaning of laws, how they are applied, and whether they break the rules of the constitution.

##### Branches of Government Practice

From *Entry into Citizenship* by Aliza Becker p. 153 or Refer the USCIS links above.

**Directions:** Fill in the chart with the correct information.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Branch** | **Legislative** | **Executive** | **Judicial** |
| **What do they do?** |  |  |  |
| **Who is the leader?** |  |  |  |
| **How many members?** |  |  |  |
| **How many terms?** |  |  |  |

## What does Congress Do?

Look for more information in Entry into Citizenship by Aliza Becker p. 124 or Refer to the USCIS links above.

##### Directions: Write out the answers to the questions.

1. What are the two parts of the Congress?
2. What is the main job of the Congress?
3. Where does the Congress work?

‘For The U.S. Senate,

1. How many are there in each state?
2. Who elects them?
3. How often are they elected?
4. How many terms can each Senator serve?
5. Who are the Senators in your state?

For the House of Representatives,

1. Who elects the Representatives?
2. How often are they elected?
3. How many terms can each Representative serve?
4. Who are the Representatives for your location?

## Who Represents Me?

**Directions**: Fill in the charts and the blanks.

#### National

*Go to* [*www.usa.gov/elected-officials*](http://www.usa.gov/elected-officials) *for current leaders*

| Position | *Name* |
| --- | --- |
| **President of the United States** |  |
| **Vice President of the United States** |  |
| **Secretary of State** |  |
| **Secretary of Defense** |  |

#### State Level: (name of state)

*Go to* [*www.usa.gov/elected-officials*](http://www.usa.gov/elected-officials) *for current leaders*

| Position | *Name* |
| --- | --- |
| **Governor** |  |
| **State Representative (optional)** |  |
| **State Senator (optional)** |  |

#### City Level: (name of your city)

*Look on the internet for current information.*

| Position | *Name* |
| --- | --- |
| **Mayor** |  |

Which of these leaders are members of the Executive Branch? (Name 2.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Who is a state leader? (Name 1.)

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

## Government and History Review Cloze Activity

**Instructions:** Complete the sentences below. Use the twelve words in the Word Box to help you.

#### Word Box

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| supreme | Court | Capitol |
| Washington | Congress | Representatives |
| Thanksgiving | colonies | Independence |
| Legislative | amendment | Star |

1. is an American holiday.
2. The Supreme decides if a law goes against the Constitution.
3. The stripes on the flag represent the first 13 .
4. There is one on the flag for each state.
5. \_ Day is July 4.
6. The three branches of the government are , Judicial, and Executive.
7. makes federal laws.
8. The Constitution is the law of the land.
9. The U.S. is in Washington, D.C.
10. Senators and the House of are in

Congress.

1. George was the first U.S. president.
2. A change to the constitution is called an .

# Part 3

## The Naturalization Interview

A naturalization interview tests for three things:

1. Your ability to understand small talk and your ability to answer questions about your **personal information: name, address, family, and work.**
2. The INS officer is testing your ability to ask for **clarification** if you do not understand something.
3. The final part of the interview is the **civics test**. You will be asked 10 questions about the history and government of the United States.

###### Directions:

Watch a short video of a sample interview; see [The Naturalization Interview and Test](https://youtu.be/SDb9_CqPUTQ) on YouTube for an example.

**Personal Questions Activity**

###### Directions:

Choose the verb from the word bank below that correctly fits with each sentence.

is are do have

1. What your name?
2. How old you?
3. Where you live?
4. How long you lived there?
5. What color your eyes?
6. How many children you have?
7. Where you work?
8. your mother a U.S. citizen?
9. What is your phone number?
10. What your address?

**Asking for clarification and expressing understanding**

Asking for clarification/repetition

* Pardon me?
* Excuse me?
* What did you say?
* Can you repeat that, please?
* Would you repeat that, please? (polite/formal)
* Would you please say it again?
* I didn’t catch that.
* Did you say or ?

Expressing understanding

* Ok, thank you.
* I understand now, thank you.
* Got it!
* Gotcha!
* Thanks for your patience.

Giving thanks

* Thanks.
* Thank you.
* Thank you very much.
* That’s very kind of you.
* I appreciate it.
* I appreciate it very much.

## Practice Dialog for Naturalization Interview

###### Directions:

* 1. Read the dialog with a classmate. Take turns being the INS Officer and Marco (the test taker).
  2. Change the personal information so that is correct for you.
  3. Practice different clarification phrases from the list above.

**INS OFFICER:** Mr. Marcos Torres?

**Marco:** Yes, that’s me.

**INS Officer:** I’m Officer Taylor. I’ll be interviewing you today.

**Marco:** Hello.

**INS Officer:** How are you doing?

**Marco:** I’m fine, thank you. And you?

**INS Officer:** I’m well, too. Thanks. What are you up to today?

**Marco:** Excuse me? Could you repeat that?

**INS Officer:** What are you doing today?

**Marco:** I understand now, thank you. I’m taking my interview and then I have to pick up my daughter from school.

**INS Officer:** That’s great. How old is your daughter?

**Marco:** She’s seven years old.

**INS Officer:** Very interesting. Okay, let’s get started. I’m going to ask you a few questions before the civics test. Are you ready?

**Marco:** Yes, I’m ready.

#### Personal Questions

**INS Officer:** What is your date of birth?

**Marco:** November 8, 1970.

**INS Officer:** And where were you born?

**Marco:** San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

**INS Officer:** Are you a citizen of Honduras?

**Marco:** Yes.

**INS Officer:** Are you currently single, married, or divorced?

**Marco:** I’m married.

**INS Officer:** And where are you currently living?

**Marco:** 3555 North Shore Boulevard, Encinitas. **INS Officer:** Where are you working?

**Marco:** I work at the county library.

**INS Officer:** Great thank you. Now we’re going to move to the civics test. The test has 10 questions about U.S. history and government. Are you ready?

**Marco:** Yes.

#### Civics Questions

**INS Officer:** Who was the first President?

**Marco:** George Washington.

**INS Officer:** Correct. How many U.S. senators are there?

**Marco**: 100.

**INS Officer:** Good. Where is the Statue of Liberty?

**Marco:** Could you repeat that, please?

**INS Officer:** Where is the Statue of Liberty?

**Marco**: In.. in New York?

**INS Officer:** Correct. What is the capital of the United States?

**Marco:** Washington, D.C.

**INS Officer**: Name the three branches of government.

**Marco:** The legislative, judicial, and… Do I name three or two? **INS Officer:** Three. One more. The legislative, judicial, and… **Marco:** Oh yes, I remember. The Executive.

**INS Officer:** Correct. What is an amendment?

**Marco:** I’m… I’m not sure. What did you say? Could you repeat that?

**INS Officer:** Yes. What is an amendment?

**Marco:** I’m sorry. I don’t know the answer. I forgot.

**INS Officer:** That’s OK. An amendment is a change to the constitution. When do we celebrate Independence Day?

**Marco:** July 4th.

**INS Officer.** That’s correct. Congratulations, you passed the civics test.

**Marco:** Thank you so much.

**INS Officer:** You’re welcome. Have a good day.

**Marco:** You too. Thank you for your time.

**Government and Law Study Guide**

Use the Complete List of 100 INS Questions in the Appendix and/or the online civics flash cards from USCIS: [online 100 Civics Flash Cards](https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/flash-cards/M-623_red_slides.pdf)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Questions** | **Possible Answers** |
| 1. | What is your full name? | My name is . |
| 2. | What is your age? | I am years old. |
| 3. | What is your current address? | My address is . |
| 4. | Are you married? | Yes, I am.  No, I’m single / divorced / widowed. |
| 5. | Name **two** U.S. national holidays. | Answers may include: New Year’s, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas |
| 6. | What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens? | Serve on a jury  Vote in a federal election |
| 7. | Why does the flag have 13 stripes? | They represent the original 13 colonies |
| 8. | Why does the flag have 50 stars? | There is one star for every state |
| 9. | When was the Declaration of Independence signed? | July 4, 1776 |
| 10. | What was one important thing Abraham Lincoln did? | Freed the slaves, preserved the Union |
| 11. | What is the supreme law of the land? | The Constitution |
| 12. | What do we call the first 10 amendments to the Constitution? | The Bill of Rights |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Questions | Possible Answers |
| 13. | What are **two** rights guaranteed to everyone living in the United States? | Answers may include: freedom of speech, religion, press, freedom to petition, right to bear arms, cannot be tried for same crime twice, right to speedy trial by jury, can’t search property without a warrant |
| 14. | Who is the governor of California? | (Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com/) “who is the governor of  ) |
| 15. | Who is the mayor of your city? | (Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com/) “who is the mayor of  )  Oceanside: Vista: Carlsbad:  Other: |
| 16. | Name one branch of the government. | Legislative, Executive, or Judicial |
| 17. | Who is the President of the United States? | (Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com/) “who is the President of the US?) |
| 18. | Who is Vice-President? | (Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com/) "who is the Vice President of the US?) |
| 19. | When is a person eligible for citizenship? | Must be 18 years of age Permanent resident for at least 5 years (3 years if married to a US citizen) |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Questions | Possible Answers |
| 20. | What do you like best about living in the U.S.? | I like . |
| 21. | Who was the first president of the United States? | George Washington |
| 22. | We elect a president for how many years? | Four years |
| 23. | What does the President’s Cabinet do? | Advises the president |
| 24. | What are names of **two**  Cabinet-level positions? | Secretary of State (Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com/) “Who is the secretary of state?)  Secretary of Defense ((Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com/) “Who is the Secretary of Defense?)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ |
| 25. | What is an amendment? | A change to the Constitution |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Questions | Possible Answers |
| 26. | How many amendments does the Constitution have? | 27 |
| 27. | What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do? | Fought for civil rights |
| 28. | Who makes federal laws? | Congress |
| 29. | What are the two parts of Congress? | The Senate and the House of Representatives |
| 30. | How many U.S. senators are there? | 100 |
| 31. | How many U.S. representatives are there? | 435 |
| 32. | What is the highest court in the United States? | The Supreme Court |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Questions | Possible Answers |
| 33. | What does the judicial branch do? | Decides if a law goes against the constitution |
| 34. | Where is the Statue of Liberty? | New York City (Harbor) |
| 35. | What is the capitol of the United States? | Washington, D.C. |

## Government and Law Assessment: Mock Interview Practice 1

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Questions** | **Possible Answers** | **Score** |
| 1. | What is your full name? | Answers may vary but must include first and last name |  |
| 2. | Are you married? | Yes, I am. No, I’m single/divorced/widowed. |  |
| 3. | What is your current address? | Street number, street name, city, state, zip code |  |
| 4. | Why does the flag have 13 stripes? | They represent the 13 original colonies |  |
| 5. | Where is the capital of the United States? | Washington, D.C. |  |
| 6. | What are two rights guaranteed to everyone living in the United States? | Answers may include: freedom of speech, religion, press, freedom to petition, right to bear arms, double jeopardy, right to speedy trial by jury, can’t search property without a warrant |  |
| 7. | Who makes federal laws in the United States? | Congress |  |
| 8. | Who is the mayor of your city? | Oceanside: Vista: Carlsbad: Encinitas: Other: |  |
| 9. | Name one branch of the government. | Legislative, Executive, or Judicial |  |
| 10. | Who is the President of the United States? | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |  |
| 11. | What do you like best about living in the U.S.? | Answers may include: better job, more opportunities, be with family |  |
| 12. | What is the supreme law of the land? | Constitution |  |

**Government and Law Assessment: Mock Interview Practice 2**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Questions** | **Possible Answers** | **Score** |
| 1. | What is your full name? | Answers may vary but must include first and last name |  |
| 2. | What is your age? | I am years old |  |
| 3. | What is your current address? | Street number, street name, city, state, zip code |  |
| 4. | Why does the flag have 50 stars? | One for each state |  |
| 5. | What is the highest court in the United States? | Supreme Court |  |
| 6. | What do we call the first 10 amendments to the Constitution? | Bill of Rights |  |
| 7. | Who is the governor of California? | **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |  |
| 8. | Who is the mayor of your city? | Oceanside: Vista: Carlsbad: Encinitas: Other: |  |
| 9. | When was the Declaration of Independence signed? | July 4, 1776 |  |
| 10. | Where is the Statue of Liberty? | New York City (Harbor) |  |
| 11. | What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do? | Fought for civil rights |  |
| 12. | How is a person eligible for citizenship? | Must be 18 years of age.  Permanent resident for at least 5 years (3 years if married to a US citizen). |  |

### Government and Law Dictation Study Guide

###### Directions:

Read each sentence out loud to a partner. Partners write out each sentence. Go back and forth.

1. The United States of America has 50 states.
2. The United States flag is red, white, and blue.
3. The process required to become a citizen is called naturalization.
4. The U.S. Constitution is the supreme law of the land.
5. The Statue of Liberty is in New York.
6. There are 100 Senators.
7. There are three branches in the government.
8. George Washington was the first President.
9. The White House is in Washington, D.C.
10. Congress meets in the U.S. capitol building.

### Government and Law Dictation Practice

###### Directions:

Unscramble the words to make sentences. Write the sentence below.

1. building U.S. in Congress meets the capitol
2. in three are branches there government the
3. is a process the called become a required naturalization to citizen
4. president Washington first the George was
5. the of land is supreme U.S. law Constitution the

### Government and Law Dictation Practice

###### Directions:

Listen to the dictation. Write the three sentences you hear.

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

### Government and Law Dictation Practice

###### Directions:

Listen to the dictation. Write the three sentences you hear.

**1.**

**2.**

**3.**

### Write a paragraph about a freedom or right

### from the Bill of Rights.

###### Step 1: Discuss what you learned about the Bill of Rights in Task 1

**Watch the video:** [**A 3-minute guide to the Bill of Rights**](https://youtu.be/yYEfLm5dLMQ)

Brainstorm with your teacher and classmates about modern examples of freedoms and rights. Write them below:

**The 5 First Amendment Freedoms**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Civil liberty** |  | **Examples:** |
| **Speech** | The First Amendment says that people have the right to speak freely without government interference. | *I can criticize my government and not be thrown in jail;*  *I can wear clothing that I like; I can give my opinions* |
| **Press** | The First Amendment gives the press the right to publish news, information and opinions without government interference.  This also means people have the right to publish their own newspapers, newsletters, magazines, Web sites, radio programs, and other types of media. |  |
| **Religion** | The First Amendment prohibits the government from establishing a religion and protects each person's right to practice (or not practice) any faith without government interference. |  |
| **Petition** | The First Amendment says that people have the right to appeal to the government in favor of or against policies that affect them or that they feel strongly about. This freedom includes the right to gather signatures in support of a cause and to |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | lobby legislative bodies for or against legislation. |  |
| **Assembly** | The First Amendment says that people have the right to gather in public to march, protest, demonstrate, carry signs, and otherwise express their views in a nonviolent way. It also means people can join and associate with groups and organizations without interference. |  |

###### Step 2: Choose 2 or 3 rights that are interesting to you.

* Write down reasons why you think it’s interesting.
* Why do you think it’s interesting?
* What are those reasons?
* Write down anything that comes to your mind. You will use these thoughts later when you write a paragraph.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Rights/Freedom interesting to me (choose 1-3)** | **Why are these interesting to you?** |
|  |  |

**Step 3: Prepare to write a paragraph.** Read the information below.

### What’s in a paragraph?

A paragraph is a group of sentences that tell about a single idea or thought. Each paragraph has a topic sentence, which tells you what the paragraph is about. The middle of the paragraph tells more about the idea. These are called supporting sentences. The last sentence is the conclusion, which tells you about the idea in different words than the topic sentence.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic sentence** | **What the paragraph is about** |
| **Supporting sentences: details with examples** | **Examples, facts, and descriptions about the topic** |
| **Conclusion sentence** | **Restate the topic sentence (the main idea) in different words** |

**Read the example paragraph below:**

**Freedom of Speech**

Freedom of speech is important to me. In my country if someone said they didn’t like the government they could go to jail. In the United States everyone is free to say what they think. For example, in my town some people think that bilingual education is a bad idea. Others think it is a good idea. It’s nice that both groups of people can talk about their opinions. I like freedom of speech because I like to listen to everyone and then choose what I believe.

**Fill in the table with sentences from the paragraph above**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Topic sentence** |  |
| **Supporting sentences** |  |
| **Conclusion sentence** |  |

#### Step 4: Now you will write your paragraph:

##### The Topic Sentence

*A topic sentence tells about the main idea of a paragraph.*

A good topic sentence includes a topic (the subject of the paragraph) and a controlling idea (what you want to say about the subject).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Topic:  *(The subject of the paragraph)* | Freedom of speech |
| Controlling idea:  *(what you want to say about the subject/topic)* | It is important to me |
| Topic Sentence | Topic + controlling idea =  **Freedom of speech is important to me.** |

**Your turn.** Write a topic sentence for your paragraph.

Choose the freedom or right you want to write about. This is your Topic.

**TOPIC \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**+**

**CONTROLLING IDEA\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**=**

**TOPIC SENTENCE\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

* **Supporting sentences/ details**

Supporting sentences give information that explains and describes the topic sentence of the paragraph.

Supporting sentences can do the following:

* + Answer the questions - who? What? Where? Why? And How?
  + Give examples
  + Explain
  + Describe
  + Give facts
  + Definitions

**Your turn:** Choose three details you want to support your topic sentence. You can choose from the list above.

**Example**:

Supporting sentence: I prefer to make my own decision about what church I want to attend.

Explanation: I like to follow my religious beliefs.

Description: I do not want the government to tell me what church to attend.

Example: I want to attend the church of my choice.

**Write 3 supporting sentences. Choose how you want to give more information.**

##### Supporting sentence 1:

##### Explanation

##### Description

##### Example

**Supporting sentence 2:**

**Explanation**

**Description**

**Example**

**Supporting sentence 3:**

**Explanation**

**Description**

**Example**

**Step 5:**

Write a concluding sentence.

* A concluding sentence is the last sentence in your paragraph. It restates, or retells, what you said in the topic sentence, but in different words.

**Example:**

***Concluding sentence*:**

*In short, freedom of religion is important to me because I can make the decision about what church to attend, practice my religion in my own way, and celebrate the religious holidays of my faith.*

**Your Turn:**

**My concluding sentence:**

## CIVIL LIBERTY PARAGRAPH EXAMPLE

Name Date

Level Paragraph #1

***Freedom of Religion***

*Freedom of religion is important to me for several reasons. First of all, I prefer to make my own decision about what church I want to attend. I like to follow my religious beliefs, and not have the government tell me what church to attend. Second, I want to practice my religion in my own way. If I choose to practice my religion in my living room with my family and friends, I can do that. Third, I like to celebrate the religious holidays of my faith. I want to have the freedom to put my religious holiday decorations on display. In short, freedom of religion is important to me because I can make the decision about what church to attend, practice my religion in my own way, and celebrate the religious holidays of my faith.*

## PARAGRAPH CHECKLIST

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Directions: Check Yes/No** | **Self** | **Self** | **Peer** | **Peer** |
|  |  | **Yes** | **No** | **Yes** | **No** |
|  | **Paragraph Content** |  |  |  |  |
| 1. | Does the paragraph have a topic sentence? |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | Does the paragraph have at least three supporting details? |  |  |  |  |
| 3. | Does the paragraph have a concluding sentence? |  |  |  |  |
| 4. | Is the meaning of each sentence clear? |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Paragraph Format** |  |  |  |  |
| 1. | Does the paragraph have a title? |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | Is the paragraph indented? |  |  |  |  |
| 3. | Is the paragraph double-spaced? |  |  |  |  |
| 4. | Is the paragraph within margins? |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Grammar and Punctuation** |  |  |  |  |
| 1. | Does each sentence begin with a capital letter? |  |  |  |  |
| 2. | Does each sentence end with punctuation? |  |  |  |  |
| 3. | Do the verbs agree with their subjects? |  |  |  |  |

**Appendix 1**

**2008 INS History and Government Questions**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| History and Government Questions | Answers |
| 1. What is the supreme law of the land? | The Constitution |
| 2. What does the Constitution do? | Defines the government  Protects the basic rights of Americans |
| 3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution.  What are these words? | We the People |
| 4. What is an amendment? | A change or addition to the Constitution |
| 5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution? | The Bill of Rights |
| 6. What is **one** right or freedom from the First Amendment? | Freedom of speech, religion, assembly, press, petition the government |
| 7. How many amendments does the Constitution have? | 27 |
| 8. What did the Declaration of Independence do? | Said that the United States is free from Great Britain |
| 9. What are **two** rights in the Declaration of Independence? | Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness |
| 10. What is freedom of religion? | You can practice any religion or not practice a religion |
| 11. What is the economic system in the United States? | Capitalist or market economy |
| 12. What is the “rule of law”? | Everyone must follow the law Leaders must obey the law Government must obey the law |
| 13. Name **one** branch or part of the government. | Legislative, Executive, or Judicial |
| 14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful? | Checks and balances Separation of powers |
| 15. Who is in charge of the executive branch? | The President |
| 16. Who makes federal laws? | Congress |
| 17. What are the **two** parts of the U.S. Congress? | The Senate  House of Representatives |
| 18. How many U.S. Senators are there? | 100 |
| 19. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years? | 6 |
| 20. Who is **one** of your state’s U.S. Senators? | Look this up on the internet as it changes. |
| 21. The House of Representatives has how many voting members? | 435 |
| 22. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years? | 2 |
| 23. Name your U.S. Representative. | Look this up on the internet as it changes. |
| 24. Who does a U.S. Senator represent? | All people of the state |
| 25. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states? | Some states have more people |
| 26. We elect a President for how many years? | 4 |
| 27. In what month do we vote for President? | November |
| 28. What is the name of the President of the United States now? | Look this up on the internet as it changes. |
| 29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now? | Look this up on the internet as it changes. |
| 30. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President? | The Vice President |

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| 31. If both the President and Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President? | The Speaker of the House |
| 32. Who is the Commander in Chief of the Military? | The President |
| 33. Who signs bills to become laws? | The President |
| 34. Who vetoes bills? | The President |
| 35. What does the President’s Cabinet do? | Advises the President |
| 36. What are **two** Cabinet-level positions? | Positions include: Secretary of Defense Secretary of State |
| 37. What does the judicial branch do? | Reviews laws, decides if law goes against the Constitution |
| 38. What is the highest court in the United States? | Supreme Court |
| 39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court? | 9 |
| 40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States? | Look this up on the internet as it changes |
| 41. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is **one** power of the federal government? | Print money, declare war, create an army, make treaties |
| 42. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is **one** power of the states? | Provide education, protection (police), safety (fire departments), give driver’s license, approving zoning and land use |
| 43. Who is the Governor of your state? | Look this up on the internet as it changes |
| 44. What is the capital of your state? | Sacramento |
| 45. What are the **two** major political parties in the United States? | Democratic and Republican |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 46. What is the political party of the President now? | Democratic |
| 47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now? | Look this up on the internet as it changes. |
| 48. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe **one** of them. | Must be 18 to vote, you don’t have to pay (a poll tax) to vote, any citizen can vote (men and women), a male citizen of any race can vote |
| 49. What is **one** responsibility that is only for United States citizens? | Vote in a federal election, serve on a jury |
| 50. Name **one** right only for United States citizens. | Vote in a federal election, run for federal office |
| 51. What are **two** rights of everyone living in the United States? | Freedom of expression, speech, assembly, petition the government, worship, right to bear arms |
| 52. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance? | The United States, the Flag |
| 53. What is **one** promise you make when you become a United States citizen. | Give up loyalty to other countries, defend the Constitution and laws of the United States, serve in the military or serve the nation if needed |
| 54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for the President? | 18 |
| 55. What are **two** ways that Americans can participate in their democracy? | Vote, join a political party, join a civic or community group, give an elected official your opinion on an issue, run for office |
| 56. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms? | April 15 |
| 57. When must all men register for the Selective Service? | Between ages 18-26 |
| 58.-What is **one** reason colonists came to America? | Religious freedom, escape persecution, economic opportunity |

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| --- | --- |
| 59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived? | Native Americans |
| 60. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves? | Africans |
| 61. Why did the colonists fight the British? | Because of high taxes, no self government |
| 62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence? | Thomas Jefferson |
| 63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted? | July 4, 1776 |
| 64. There were 13 original states. Name **three**. | New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia |
| 65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention? | The Constitution was written |
| 66. When was the Constitution written? | 1787 |
| 67. The Federalist papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name **one**  of the writers. | James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, Publius |
| 68. What is **one** thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for? | Items include: U.S. diplomat, oldest member of the Constitutional Convention, started first free libraries |
| 69. Who is the “Father of Our Country”? | George Washington |
| 70. Who was the first President? | George Washington |
| 71. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803? | Louisiana |
| 72. Name **one** war fought by the United States in the 1800s. | War of 1812, Mexican-American War, Civil War, Spanish-American War |
| 73. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South. | Civil War |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 74. Name **one** problem that led to the Civil War. | Slavery, states’ rights |
| 75. What was **one** important thing Abraham Lincoln did? | Freed the slaves, saved the Union, led the United States during the Civil War |
| 76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do? | Freed the slaves |
| 77. What did Susan B. Anthony do? | Fought for women’s rights |
| 78. Name **one** war fought by the United States in the 1900s. | World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War |
| 79. Who was President during World War I? | Woodrow Wilson |
| 80. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II? | Franklin Roosevelt |
| 81. Who did the United States fight in World War II? | Japan, Germany, Italy |
| 82. Before he was president, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in? | World War II |
| 83. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States? | Communism |
| 84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination? | Civil rights movement |
| 85. What did Martin Luther King Jr. do? | Fought for civil rights (equality for all Americans) |
| 86. What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States? | Terrorists attacked the United States |
| 87. Name **one** American Indian tribe in the United States. | Some tribes include: Cherokee, Navajo, Sioux, Apache, Cheyenne, Crow, Hopi, Inuit |
| 88. Name **one** of the two longest rivers in the United States. | Missouri River, Mississippi River |
| 89. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States? | Pacific Ocean |
| 90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States? | Atlantic Ocean |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 91. Name **one** U.S. territory. | Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Northern Mariana Islands, Guam |
| 92. Name **one** state that borders Canada. | States include: Main, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Idaho, Washington, Alaska |
| 93. Name **one** state that borders Mexico. | California, Arizona, New Mexico, Texas |
| 94. What is the capital of the United States? | Washington, D.C. |
| 95. Where is the Statue of Liberty? | New York Harbor |
| 96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes? | The stripes represent the 13 original colonies |
| 97. Why does the flag have 50 stars? | There is one star for each state |
| 98. What is the name of the national anthem? | The Star-Spangled Banner |
| 99. When do we celebrate Independence Day? | July 4th |
| 100. Name **two** national U.S. holidays. | Holidays include: New Year’s, Martin Luther King Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas |