

## American Government

### A: Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
2. What does the Constitution do?
3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
4. What is an amendment?
5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?\*
7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
10. What is freedom of religion?
11. What is the economic system in the United States?\*
12. What is the "rule of law"?

- the Constitution
- sets up the government
- defines the government
- protects basic rights of Americans
- We the People
- a change (to the Constitution)
- an addition (to the Constitution)
- the Bill of Rights
- speech
- religion
- assembly
- press
- petition the government
- twenty-seven (27)
- announced our independence (from GB)
- declared our independence (from GB)
- said that the United States is free
- life
- liberty
- pursuit of happiness
- You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.
- capitalist economy      • market economy
- Everyone must follow the law.
- Leaders must obey the law.
- Government must obey the law.
- No one is above the law.

### B: System of Government

13. Name one branch or part of the government.\*
14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?
15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?
16. Who makes federal laws?
17. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?\*
18. How many U.S. Senators are there?

- Congress
- legislative
- President
- executive
- the courts
- judicial
- checks and balances
- separation of powers
- the President
- Congress
- Senate and House (of Representatives)
- (U.S. or national) legislature
- the Senate and House (of Representatives)
- one hundred (100)

19. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?

- six (6)

20. Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators now?\*

- Mike Rounds
- John Thune

21. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

- four hundred thirty-five (435)

22. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?

- two (2)

23. Name your U.S. Representative.

- Dusty Johnson

24. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

- all people of the state

25. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

- (because of) the state's population
- (because) they have more people
- (because) some states have more people

26. We elect a President for how many years?

- four (4)

27. In what month do we vote for President?\*

- November

28. What is the name of the President of the United States now?\*

- Joe Biden

29. What is the name of the Vice President of the US now?

- Kamala Harris

30. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

- the Vice President

31. If both the President and the 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?

- Secretary of Agriculture
- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of the Interior

37. What does the judicial branch do?

- reviews laws
- explains laws
- resolves disputes (disagreements)
- decides if a law goes against the Constitution
- the Supreme Court
- 9
- Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr.

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

39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

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

41. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?

- to print money
- to declare war
- to create an army
- to make treaties

42. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?

- provide schooling and education
- provide protection (police)
- provide safety (fire departments)
- give a driver's license
- approve zoning and land use

43. Who is the Governor of your state now?

- Kristi Noem

44. What is the capital of your state?\*

- Pierre

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?

- Mike Johnson

## **C: Rights and Responsibilities**

48. There are four amendments to the

Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

49. What is one responsibility that is only for US citizens?\*

50. Name one right only for United States citizens.

51. What are two rights of everyone living in the US?

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

53. What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?

54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?\*

55. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?

56. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?\*

57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?

- Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).
- You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.
- Any citizen can vote. (Women and men)
- A male citizen of any race (can vote).

- serve on a jury
- vote in a federal election
- vote in a federal election
- run for federal office
- freedom of expression
- freedom of speech
- freedom of assembly
- freedom to petition the government
- freedom of religion
- the right to bear arms

- the United States
- the flag

- give up loyalty to other countries
- defend the Constitution and laws of the US
- obey the laws of the United States
- serve in the U.S. military (if needed)
- serve (do important work for) the nation
- be loyal to the United States
- eighteen (18) and older

- vote
- join a political party
- help with a campaign
- join a civic group
- join a community group
- give an elected official your opinion on an issue
- call Senators and Representatives
- publicly support or oppose an issue or policy
- run for office
- write to a newspaper
- April 15
- at age eighteen (18)
- between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)

## **American History**

### **A: Colonial Period and Independence**

58. What is one reason colonists came to America?

- freedom
- political liberty
- religious freedom

59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

- economic opportunity
- practice their religion
- escape persecution
- American Indians
- Native Americans

60. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?

- Africans
- people from Africa
- because of high taxes (taxation without representation)
- because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)

61. Why did the colonists fight the British?

- because they didn't have 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 York
- Pennsylvania
- Delaware

65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

- The Constitution was written.
- The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.
- 1787

66. When was the Constitution written?

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

- (James) Madison
- (Alexander) Hamilton
- (John) Jay
- Publius
- U.S. diplomat
- oldest member of the Constitutional Convention
- first Postmaster General of the United States
- writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac"
- started the first free libraries
- (George) Washington
- (George) Washington

68. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

69. Who is the "Father of Our Country"?

70. Who was the first President?\*

## **B: 1800s**

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

- the Louisiana Territory

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

- Louisiana
- War of 1812
- Mexican-American War
- Civil War
- Spanish-American War

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

- the Civil War
- the War between the States

74. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

- slavery
- economic reasons
- states' rights

75. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?\*

- freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)
- saved (or preserved) 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?

- freed slaves in the Confederacy
- freed slaves in the Confederate states
- freed slaves in most Southern states
- fought for women's rights
- fought for civil rights

## **C: Recent American History and Other**

### **Important Historical Information**

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
- (Woodrow) Wilson
- (Franklin) Roosevelt
- Japan, Germany, and Italy

79. Who was President during World War I?

80. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?

81. Who did the United States fight in World War II?

- World War II

82. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general.

What war was he in?

83. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?

- Communism
- civil rights (movement)
- fought for civil rights
- worked for equality for all Americans

84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

85. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?\*

86. What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?

- Terrorists attacked the United States.
- Sioux
- Cherokee
- Navajo

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

## **INTEGRATED CIVICS**

### **A: Geography**

88. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

- Missouri (River)
- Mississippi (River)
- Pacific (Ocean)
- Atlantic (Ocean)
- Puerto Rico
- U.S. Virgin Islands
- Minnesota • North Dakota
- California • Arizona
- Washington, D.C.
- New York (Harbor) • Liberty Island

89. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?

91. Name one U.S. territory.

92. Name one state that borders Canada.

93. Name one state that borders Mexico.

94. What is the capital of the United States?\*

95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?\*

### **B: Symbols**

96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?\*

98. What is the name of the national anthem?

- because there were 13 original colonies
- because there is one star for each of the 50 states
- The Star-Spangled Banner

### **C: Holidays**

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?\*

100. Name two national U.S. holidays.

- July 4
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day • Presidents' Day