



INS Interview (100) Questions with answers

Use these questions to study for the INS interview. Possible answers are marked with an "A." Most questions only need one answer. Read a question carefully to determine how many of the possible answers you need to remember.

*** If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk and highlighted in gray.**

NOTE: Some questions require specific information for your state. The answers provided in this list are for Longmont, Colorado.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A: Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land?

A: *the Constitution*

2. What does the Constitution do?

A: *sets up the government*

A: *defines the government*

A: *protects basic rights of Americans*

3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?

A: *We the People*

4. What is an amendment?

A: *a change (to the Constitution)*

A: *an addition (to the Constitution)*

5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

A: *the Bill of Rights*

6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?*

A: *speech*

A: *religion*

A: *assembly*

A: *press*

A: *petition the government*

7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?

A: *twenty-seven (27)*

8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?

A: *announced our independence (from Great Britain)*

A: *declared our independence (from Great Britain)*

A: *said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)*

9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

A: *life*

A: *liberty*

A: *pursuit of happiness*

10. What is freedom of religion?

A: *You can practice any religion, or not practice a religion.*

11. What is the economic system in the United States?*

A: *capitalist economy*

A: *market economy*

12. What is the "rule of law"?

A: *Everyone must follow the law.*

A: *Leaders must obey the law.*

A: *Government must obey the law.*

A: *No one is above the law.*

B: System of Government

13. Name one branch or part of the government.*

A: *Congress*

A: *legislative*

A: *President*

A: *executive*

A: *the courts*

A: *judicial*

14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

A: *checks and balances*

A: *separation of powers*

15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?

A: *the President*

16. Who makes federal laws?

A: *Congress*

A: *Senate and House (of Representatives)*

A: *(U.S. or national) legislature*

17. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?*

A: *the Senate and House (of Representatives)*

18. How many U.S. Senators are there?

A: *one hundred (100)*

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

A: *six (6)*

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

A: *Michael Bennett*

A: *Cory Gardner*

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

A: *four hundred thirty-five (435)*

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

A: *two (2)*

23. Name your U.S. Representative.

A: *Ken Buck (Longmont & Greeley, Weld County)*

A: *Jared Polis (Boulder & Niwot)*

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

A: *all people of the state*

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

A: *(because of) the state's population*

A: *(because) they have more people*

A: *(because) some states have more people*

26. We elect a President for how many years?

A: *four (4)*

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

A: *November*

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

A: *Barack H. Obama*

A: *Barack Obama*

A: *Obama*

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

A: *Joseph R. Biden, Jr.*

A: *Joe Biden*

A: *Biden*

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

A: *the Vice President*

31. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

A: *the Speaker of the House*

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

A: *the President*

33. Who signs bills to become laws?

A: *the President*

34. Who vetoes bills?

A: *the President*

35. What does the President's Cabinet do?

A: *advises the President*

36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?

A: *Secretary of Agriculture*

A: *Secretary of Commerce*

A: *Secretary of Defense*

A: *Secretary of Education*

A: *Secretary of Energy*

A: *Secretary of Health and Human Services*

A: *Secretary of Homeland Security*

A: *Secretary of Housing and Urban Development*

A: *Secretary of the Interior*
A: *Secretary of Labor*
A: *Secretary of State*
A: *Secretary of Transportation*
A: *Secretary of the Treasury*
A: *Secretary of Veterans Affairs*
A: *Attorney General*
A: *Vice President*

37. What does the judicial branch do?

A: *reviews laws*
A: *explains laws*
A: *resolves disputes (disagreements)*
A: *decides if a law goes against the Constitution*

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

A: *the Supreme Court*

39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

A: *nine (9)*

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

A: *John Roberts*
A: *John G. Roberts, Jr.*

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

A: *to print money*
A: *to declare war*
A: *to create an army*
A: *to make treaties*

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

A: *provide schooling and education*
A: *provide protection (police)*
A: *provide safety (fire departments)*
A: *give a driver's license*

A: *approve zoning and land use*

43. Who is the Governor of your state now?

A: *John Hickenlooper*

A: *Hickenlooper*

44. What is the capital of your state?*

A: *Denver*

45. What are the two major political parties in the United States?*

A: *Democratic and Republican*

46. What is the political party of the President now?

A: *Democratic (Party)*

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

A: *Paul Ryan*

A: *Ryan*

C: Rights and Responsibilities

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

A: *Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).*

A: *You don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.*

A: *Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)*

A: *A male citizen of any race (can vote).*

49. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?*

A: *serve on a jury*

A: *vote in a federal election*

50. Name one right only for United States citizens.

A: *vote in a federal election*

A: *run for federal office*

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

- A: *freedom of expression*
- A: *freedom of speech*
- A: *freedom of assembly*
- A: *freedom to petition the government*
- A: *freedom of worship (freedom of religion)*
- A: *the right to bear arms*

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

- A: *the United States*
- A: *the flag*

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

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

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

- A: *eighteen (18) and older*

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

- A: *vote*
- A: *join a political party*
- A: *help with a campaign*
- A: *join a civic group*
- A: *join a community group*
- A: *give an elected official your opinion on an issue*
- A: *call Senators and Representatives*
- A: *publicly support or oppose an issue or policy*
- A: *run for office*
- A: *write to a newspaper*

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

A: *April 15*

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

A: *at age eighteen (18)*

A: *between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)*

AMERICAN HISTORY A: Colonial Period and Independence

58. What is one reason colonists came to America?

A: *freedom*

A: *political liberty*

A: *religious freedom*

A: *economic opportunity*

A: *practice their religion*

A: *escape persecution*

59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

A: *American Indians*

A: *Native Americans*

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

A: *Africans*

A: *people from Africa*

61. Why did the colonists fight the British?

A: *because of high taxes (taxation without representation)*

A: *because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering)*

A: *because they didn't have self-government*

62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

A: *(Thomas) Jefferson*

63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

A: July 4, 1776

64. There were 13 original states. Name three.

A: New Hampshire

A: Massachusetts

A: Rhode Island

A: Connecticut

A: New York

A: New Jersey

A: Pennsylvania

A: Delaware

A: Maryland

A: Virginia

A: North Carolina

A: South Carolina

A: Georgia

65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

A: The Constitution was written.

A: The Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution.

66. When was the Constitution written?

A: 1787

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

A: (James) Madison

A: (Alexander) Hamilton

A: (John) Jay

A: Publius

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

A: U.S. diplomat

A: oldest member of the Constitutional Convention

A: first Postmaster General of the United States

A: writer of "Poor Richard's Almanac"

A: started the first free libraries

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

A: *(George) Washington*

70. Who was the first President?*

A: *(George) Washington*

AMERICAN HISTORY B: 1800s

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

A: *the Louisiana Territory*

A: *Louisiana*

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

A: *War of 1812*

A: *Mexican-American War*

A: *Civil War*

A: *Spanish-American War*

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

A: *the Civil War*

A: *the War between the States*

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

A: *slavery*

A: *economic reasons*

A: *states' rights*

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

A: *freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation)*

A: *saved (or preserved) the Union*

A: *led the United States during the Civil War*

76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

A: *freed the slaves*

A: *freed slaves in the Confederacy*

A: *freed slaves in the Confederate states*

A: *freed slaves in most Southern states*

77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

A: fought for women's rights

A: fought for civil rights

**AMERICAN HISTORY C: Recent American History and Other Important
Historical Information**

78. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.*

A: World War I

A: World War II

A: Korean War

A: Vietnam War

A: (Persian) Gulf War

79. Who was President during World War I?

A: (Woodrow) Wilson

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

A: (Franklin) Roosevelt

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

A: Japan, Germany, and Italy

82. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?

A: World War II

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

A: Communism

84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

A: civil rights (movement)

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

A: fought for civil rights

A: worked for equality for all Americans

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

A: Terrorists attacked the United States.

A: Terrorists attacked the World Trade Center in New York City.

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

A: Cherokee

A: Navajo

A: Sioux

A: Chippewa

A: Choctaw

A: Pueblo

A: Apache

A: Iroquois

A: Creek

A: Blackfeet

A: Seminole

A: Cheyenne

A: Arawak

A: Shawnee

A: Mohegan

A: Huron

A: Oneida

A: Lakota

A: Crow

A: Teton

A: Hopi

A: Inuit

CIVICS A: Geography

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

A: Missouri (River)

A: Mississippi (River)

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

A: Pacific (Ocean)

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

A: *Atlantic (Ocean)*

91. Name one U.S. territory.

A: *Puerto Rico*

A: *U.S. Virgin Islands*

A: *American Samoa*

A: *Northern Mariana Islands*

A: *Guam*

92. Name one state that borders Canada.

A: *Maine*

A: *New Hampshire*

A: *Vermont*

A: *New York*

A: *Pennsylvania*

A: *Ohio*

A: *Michigan*

A: *Minnesota*

A: *North Dakota*

A: *Montana*

A: *Idaho*

A: *Washington*

A: *Alaska*

93. Name one state that borders Mexico.

A: *California*

A: *Arizona*

A: *New Mexico*

A: *Texas*

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

A: *Washington, D.C.*

95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?*

A: *New York (Harbor)*

A: *Liberty Island*

A: *New York City*

CIVICS B: Symbols

96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

A: because there were 13 original colonies

A: because the stripes represent the original colonies

97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?*

A: because there is one star for each state

A: because each star represents a state

A: because there are 50 states

98. What is the name of the national anthem?

A: The Star-Spangled Banner

CIVICS C: Holidays

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?*

A: July 4

100. Name two national U.S. holidays.

A: New Year's Day

A: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

A: Presidents' Day

A: Memorial Day

A: Independence Day

A: Labor Day

A: Columbus Day

A: Veterans Day

A: Thanksgiving

A: Christmas