SECTION F:
STUDY MATERIALS FOR THE CIVICS (HISTORY AND GOVERNMENT) EXAM

You will need to be able to read, write and speak in conversational English. You also need to know about U.S. history and government (called *civics*).

Your English skills will be tested in the following ways:

- Reading – You will be asked to read a sentence in English. You will be given three chances. You must get one right.
- Writing - You will be asked to write a sentence in English. You will be given three chances. You must get one right.
- Speaking - The USCIS officer will test your English speaking ability when you answer questions about yourself and your application during your interview.

You will also be asked to orally answer a set of civics questions to test your understanding of U.S. history and government. There will be ten questions. To pass, you must correctly answer six out of 10 questions.

If you are at least 65 years old and have been a Legal Permanent Resident (a person who has a green card) for at least 20 years, you can study a reduced number of questions.

Below are samples of questions you may be asked during your naturalization interview.

STUDY QUESTIONS FOR THE NEW VERSION OF THE NATURALIZATION EXAM

Some questions have several answers listed. This is because there may be several ways of saying the same thing, or because there is more than one possible answer. You will only be required to give one answer from the list, *unless the question specifically asks for more than one*. You will be asked 10 questions and must correctly answer six out of 10.

QUESTIONS	ANSWERS
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT QUESTIONS	
Principles of American Democracy	
1. What is the supreme law of the land?	The Constitution
2. What does the Constitution do?	Sets up the government; defines the government; protects 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 (to the Constitution); an addition (to the Constitution)
5. What do we call the first 10 amendments to the Constitution?	The Bill of Rights
6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?	Speech; religion; assembly; press; petition the government
7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?	Twenty-seven (27)
8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?	Announced our independence (from Great Britain); declared our independence (from Great Britain); said that the United States is free (from Great Britain)
9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?	Life; liberty; 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 economy; market economy
12. What is the "rule of law"?	Everyone must follow the law; leaders must obey the law; government must obey the law; no one is above the law.
System of Government	
13. Name one branch or part of the government.	Legislative (Congress); executive (President); judicial (the courts)
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; Senate and House (of Representatives); (U.S. or national) legislature
17. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?	The Senate and House (of Representatives)
18. How many U.S. Senators are there?	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?	Barbara Boxer; Diane Feinstein (California state - 2009)
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.	Nancy Pelosi (most of San Francisco - 2009) For information on finding your elected official, you may go to www.house.gov/zip/ZIP2Rep.html or you may ask your local librarian.
24. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?	All people of that 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?	Barack Obama; Obama
29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?	Joseph R. Biden Jr.; Joe Biden; Biden
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?	Advise the President
36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?	Secretary of Agriculture; Secretary of Commerce; Secretary of Defense; Secretary of Education; Secretary of Energy; Secretary of Health and Human Services; Secretary of Homeland Security; Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; Secretary of Interior; Secretary of State; Secretary of

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	Transportation; Secretary of Treasury; Secretary of Veterans' Affairs; Secretary of Labor; Attorney General
37. What does the judicial branch do?	Reviews laws; explains U.S. laws; resolves disputes (disagreements); decides if a law goes against the Constitution
38. What is the highest court in the United States?	The Supreme Court
39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?	Nine (9)
40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?	John Roberts (John G. Roberts Jr.)
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?	Arnold Schwarzenegger (California state - 2009)
44. What is the capital of your state?	Sacramento (California state)
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 (Party)
47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?	Nancy Pelosi (2009)
Rights and Responsibilities	
48. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.	Citizens 18 and older can vote; you don't have to pay (a poll tax) to vote; a male citizen of any race can vote; any citizen (women and men) can vote.
49. What is one responsibility that is only for U.S. citizens?	Serve on a jury; vote
50. What are two rights only for United States citizens?	Apply for a federal job; vote; run for office; carry a U.S. passport
51. What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?	Freedom of expression; freedom of speech; freedom of assembly; freedom to petition the government; freedom of worship; the 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; obey the laws of the United States; serve in the U.S. military (if needed); serve (do important work for) the nation (if needed); be loyal to the United States
54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?	Eighteen (18) and older
55. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?	Vote; join a political party; help with a campaign; join a civic or 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
56. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax	April 15

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forms?	
57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?	At age 18; between the ages of 18 and 26
AMERICAN HISTORY QUESTIONS	
Colonial Period and Independence	
58. What is one reason colonists came to America?	
59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?	Native Americans; American Indians
60. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?	Africans; people from Africa
61. Why did the colonists fight the British?	Because of high taxes (taxation without representation); because the British army stayed in their houses (boarding, quartering); 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 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; the Founding Fathers wrote the Constitution
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
68. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?	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
69. Who is the "Father of Our Country"?	(George) Washington
70. Who was the first President?	(George) Washington
1800s	
71. What territory did the U.S. buy from France in 1803?	
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.	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; freed slaves in the Confederacy; freed slaves in the Confederate states; freed slaves in most Southern states
77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?	Fought for women's rights; fought for civil rights
Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information	
78. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.	
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, and Italy

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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; worked for 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.	Cherokee; Navajo; Sioux; Chippewa; Choctaw; Pueblo; Apache; Iroquois; Creek; Blackfeet; Seminole; Cheyenne; Arawak; Shawnee; Mohegan; Huron; Oneida; Lakota; Crow; Teton; Hopi; Inuit
INTEGRATED CIVICS QUESTIONS	
Geography	
88. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.	
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.	Maine; New Hampshire; Vermont; New York; Pennsylvania; Ohio; Michigan; Minnesota; North Dakota; Montana; 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); Liberty Island [Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]
Symbols	
96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?	
97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?	Because there is one star for each state; because each star represents a state; because there are 50 states
98. What is the name of the national anthem?	The Star-Spangled Banner
Holidays	
99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?	
100. Name two national U.S. holidays.	New Year's Day; Martin Luther King Jr. Day; Presidents Day; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Columbus Day; Veterans Day; Thanksgiving; Christmas

Study Questions for ELDERLY APPLICANTS for the NEW Version of the Exam

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People over the age of 65 who are Legal Permanent Residents (have a green card) and who have lived in the United States as Legal Permanent Residents for at least 20 years have different requirements for civics (history and government) knowledge. They may also be eligible to be tested in their native language. See *Section E* for more information.

1. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?	Speech; religion; assembly; press; petition the government
2. What is the economic system in the United States?	Capitalist economy; market economy
3. Name one branch or part of the government.	Legislative (Congress); executive (President); judicial (the courts)
4. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?	The Senate and House (of Representatives)
5. Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators?	Barbara Boxer; Diane Feinstein (California state - 2009)
6. In what month do we vote for President?	November
7. What is the name of the President of the U.S. now?	Barack Obama; Obama
8. What is the capital of your state?	Sacramento (California state)
9. What are the two major political parties in the United States?	Democratic and Republican
10. What is one responsibility that is only for U.S. citizens?	Serve on a jury; vote
11. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?	Eighteen (18) and older
12. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?	April 15
13. Who was the first President?	(George) Washington
14. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?	Freed the slaves (Emancipation Proclamation); saved (preserved) the Union; led U.S. during the Civil War
15. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.	World War I; World War II; Korean War; Vietnam War; (Persian) Gulf War
16. What did Martin Luther King Jr. do?	Fought for civil rights; worked for equality for all Americans
17. What is the capital of the United States?	Washington, D.C.
18. Where is the Statue of Liberty?	New York (Harbor); Liberty Island [Also acceptable are New Jersey, near New York City, and on the Hudson (River).]
19. Why does the flag have 50 stars?	Because there is one star for each state; because each star represents a state; because there are 50 states
20. When do we celebrate Independence Day?	July 4

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