

USCIS New York Citizenship Interview Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. Which amendment is concerned with the right to free speech?**
 - A. The First Amendment**
 - B. The Tenth Amendment**
 - C. The Fifth Amendment**
 - D. The Eighth Amendment**

- 2. What is the highest court in the United States?**
 - A. The Court of Appeals**
 - B. The Supreme Court**
 - C. The Federal Court**
 - D. The District Court**

- 3. What is the economic system in the United States?**
 - A. Socialist economy**
 - B. Capitalist economy or market economy**
 - C. Communist economy**
 - D. Mixed economy**

- 4. What did the 13th Amendment accomplish?**
 - A. Abolished slavery**
 - B. Provided women's suffrage**
 - C. Granted civil rights**
 - D. Established income tax**

- 5. Who is the current President of the United States as of October 2023?**
 - A. Barack Obama**
 - B. Donald Trump**
 - C. Joe Biden**
 - D. Kamala Harris**

- 6. Which holiday often features fireworks as part of its celebration?**
- A. Thanksgiving**
 - B. New Year's Day**
 - C. Independence Day**
 - D. Veterans Day**
- 7. What was the primary concern of the United States during the Cold War?**
- A. Racism**
 - B. Nationalism**
 - C. Communism**
 - D. Globalization**
- 8. Who is the current Governor of New York?**
- A. Andrew Cuomo**
 - B. Kathy Hochul**
 - C. Nancy Pelosi**
 - D. Mike Johnson**
- 9. What fundamental principle is established by the voting rights amendment?**
- A. Voter ID requirements**
 - B. Universal suffrage**
 - C. Poll taxes**
 - D. Voting only for men**
- 10. What significant event took place at the Constitutional Convention?**
- A. The Bill of Rights was ratified**
 - B. The Constitution was written**
 - C. The Declaration of Independence was created**
 - D. The first President was elected**

Answers

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1. A
2. B
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. C
7. C
8. B
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. Which amendment is concerned with the right to free speech?

- A. The First Amendment**
- B. The Tenth Amendment**
- C. The Fifth Amendment**
- D. The Eighth Amendment**

The First Amendment is directly associated with the right to free speech. Ratified in 1791, it guarantees several fundamental rights, including freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to peaceably assemble, and the right to petition the government. This means that individuals are allowed to express their opinions and ideas without fear of government censorship or punishment, a cornerstone of a democratic society. In contrast, the other amendments mentioned focus on different rights and protections. The Tenth Amendment addresses the powers not delegated to the federal government, emphasizing the rights reserved to the states and the people. The Fifth Amendment includes protections related to legal proceedings, such as the right against self-incrimination and ensuring due process. The Eighth Amendment prohibits cruel and unusual punishment, reinforcing humane treatment within the justice system. These distinctions clarify why the First Amendment is specifically linked to the right to free speech.

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

- A. The Court of Appeals**
- B. The Supreme Court**
- C. The Federal Court**
- D. The District Court**

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the United States, established by the Constitution and serving as the ultimate authority in interpreting federal laws and the Constitution itself. Its decisions have far-reaching implications and set legal precedents that lower courts must follow, solidifying its role in the American legal system. In contrast, the Court of Appeals and Federal Courts serve specific functions within the judicial hierarchy but do not hold the same level of authority as the Supreme Court. The Court of Appeals handles appeals from the District Courts but must defer to the Supreme Court for interpretations of law and constitutional issues. The District Court is the trial court level where most federal cases begin, and its decisions can be appealed, but it operates under the oversight of the higher courts, making them inferior in jurisdiction. Thus, the Supreme Court distinctly stands out as the apex of the judiciary in the United States, having the final say in legal interpretations and often addressing matters of national significance.

3. What is the economic system in the United States?

- A. Socialist economy
- B. Capitalist economy or market economy**
- C. Communist economy
- D. Mixed economy

The economic system in the United States is best described as a capitalist economy or market economy. This designation reflects the foundational principles of capitalism, which include private ownership of property, the freedom to engage in business, and the market-driven allocation of resources. In a capitalist economy, individuals and companies make decisions about production and sale based on supply and demand, trying to maximize profits while competing with one another. While capitalism is a dominant force in the U.S. economy, it's important to note that this system also incorporates elements of a mixed economy. A mixed economy includes characteristics of both capitalism and some level of government intervention. This means that, while the market primarily drives the economy, the government regulates certain aspects, such as public services, healthcare, and environmental regulations, to ensure some level of social welfare and protection. The other options highlight different economic systems. A socialist economy is characterized by collective or governmental ownership of the means of production, which is not the case in the U.S. A communist economy represents a more extreme form of socialism where the state controls all aspects of economic life, fundamentally differing from American practices. The mention of a mixed economy, while partially relevant, does not capture the primary nature of the U.S. economic system, which operates primarily on

4. What did the 13th Amendment accomplish?

- A. Abolished slavery**
- B. Provided women's suffrage
- C. Granted civil rights
- D. Established income tax

The 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution accomplished the abolition of slavery. Ratified in December 1865, it formally prohibited slavery and involuntary servitude, except as punishment for a crime. This amendment was a pivotal moment in American history, marking the end of legal slavery in the United States, which had been a foundational institution since colonial times. The passage of the 13th Amendment was a significant outcome of the Civil War and aligned with the broader movement toward civil rights and equality. The other options pertain to different aspects of civil rights and government legislation. Women's suffrage, for instance, was primarily addressed by the 19th Amendment, which was ratified in 1920, long after the 13th Amendment. Civil rights movements continued to evolve over decades and culminated in landmark legislation like the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Similarly, the establishment of an income tax was formalized with the 16th Amendment, ratified in 1913, and is not related to the abolition of slavery. Thus, the correct answer highlights the specific achievement of the 13th Amendment in eradicating slavery from legal foundations in the United States.

5. Who is the current President of the United States as of October 2023?

- A. Barack Obama**
- B. Donald Trump**
- C. Joe Biden**
- D. Kamala Harris**

The correct answer is Joe Biden. As of October 2023, Joe Biden serves as the President of the United States. He was inaugurated on January 20, 2021, and has since been actively involved in various domestic and foreign policies. Understanding the current president is important not just for citizenship interviews but also for being informed citizens, as the president plays a significant role in shaping national policy and governance. Barack Obama, though a prominent figure and former president, served from 2009 to 2017 and is not currently in office. Donald Trump, the president from 2017 to 2021, is also a past leader and does not hold the position any longer. Kamala Harris, while serving as the Vice President under Joe Biden, is not the President, highlighting the distinct roles of the executive branch leaders in the U.S. government.

6. Which holiday often features fireworks as part of its celebration?

- A. Thanksgiving**
- B. New Year's Day**
- C. Independence Day**
- D. Veterans Day**

Independence Day is closely associated with fireworks, as it commemorates the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. Fireworks have become a traditional way to celebrate this holiday across the United States, symbolizing the joy and patriotism tied to the nation's history and freedom. Many cities host large firework displays, and families may also set off personal fireworks in their backyards, making the visual spectacle a hallmark of the day. While New Year's Day may also include fireworks to welcome the new year, Independence Day distinctly emphasizes them as a representation of national pride and celebration of American independence. Thanksgiving and Veterans Day do not typically include fireworks in their celebrations; instead, they focus on themes of gratitude and honoring service, respectively.

7. What was the primary concern of the United States during the Cold War?

- A. Racism**
- B. Nationalism**
- C. Communism**
- D. Globalization**

The primary concern of the United States during the Cold War was communism. This ideological battle was marked by the U.S. striving to contain the spread of communism, particularly as it was represented by the Soviet Union and its allied states. The U.S. feared that the spread of communism would undermine democratic systems and capitalist economies around the world, leading to a global shift towards authoritarian regimes aligned with Soviet interests. Throughout the Cold War, this apprehension manifested in various forms, including military interventions, the establishment of alliances like NATO, and engagement in proxy wars to support governments resisting communist influence. The U.S. adopted strategies such as containment and deterrence to address this perceived threat, which was characterized by conflicts in places like Korea and Vietnam and a significant arms race. The options regarding racism, nationalism, and globalization were indeed relevant issues during the Cold War period but were not the central focus of U.S. foreign policy at that time. While these factors influenced domestic affairs and other global contexts, they did not encapsulate the overarching geopolitical tension that defined U.S. actions on the world stage during the Cold War, which was centered on countering the threat posed by communism.

8. Who is the current Governor of New York?

- A. Andrew Cuomo**
- B. Kathy Hochul**
- C. Nancy Pelosi**
- D. Mike Johnson**

The current Governor of New York is Kathy Hochul. She became the first female governor of New York after Andrew Cuomo resigned in August 2021. Hochul previously served as the Lieutenant Governor and took over the role of governor under the state's succession laws, which allow the lieutenant governor to step into the governorship if the sitting governor can no longer serve. This transition marked a significant moment in New York's political history, as it not only changed the individual in leadership but also addressed gender representation in state governance. Kathy Hochul has since established initiatives focusing on economic recovery, public health, and women's rights during her administration. The other names listed, such as Andrew Cuomo, Nancy Pelosi, and Mike Johnson, hold different political offices or have previously held the governorship but are not current governors of New York.

9. What fundamental principle is established by the voting rights amendment?

- A. Voter ID requirements**
- B. Universal suffrage**
- C. Poll taxes**
- D. Voting only for men**

The voting rights amendment fundamentally established the principle of universal suffrage, which ensures that the right to vote cannot be denied or abridged on the basis of race, color, or sex. This principle is enshrined in several amendments to the U.S. Constitution, particularly the 15th Amendment, which prohibits voting discrimination based on race, and the 19th Amendment, which grants women the right to vote. These amendments collectively contribute to a more inclusive electoral process, reflecting the democratic ideal that all citizens should have a say in their government. In contrast, the other choices address aspects of voting rights that either restricted or were historically significant in shaping current laws but do not align with the fundamental goal of universal suffrage. Voter ID requirements may impose barriers to voting, poll taxes were used to disenfranchise certain populations, and voting only for men reflects a time in U.S. history before women's suffrage was recognized. Thus, the essence of the voting rights amendment is about inclusivity and the entitlement of every citizen to participate in elections, underscoring the commitment to universal suffrage.

10. What significant event took place at the Constitutional Convention?

- A. The Bill of Rights was ratified**
- B. The Constitution was written**
- C. The Declaration of Independence was created**
- D. The first President was elected**

The significant event that took place at the Constitutional Convention was the writing of the Constitution. This convention, held in Philadelphia in 1787, brought together delegates from various states to address the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation and create a stronger framework for the federal government. The outcome of this meeting was the drafting of the U.S. Constitution, which established the structure of the government, outlining the separation of powers among the legislative, executive, and judicial branches and enumerating the rights of citizens. The other options reflect important aspects of American history but did not occur at the Constitutional Convention itself. The Bill of Rights was ratified later, in 1791, as the first ten amendments to the Constitution, designed to protect individual freedoms. The Declaration of Independence was created earlier, in 1776, declaring the thirteen American colonies' independence from British rule. Lastly, the election of the first President, George Washington, occurred in 1789, after the Constitution was already in place. Thus, the writing of the Constitution is the central achievement of the Constitutional Convention.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

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We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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