

**TEACHING AMERICAN HISTORY PROJECT**  
***Lesson Title - Naturalization Test***  
**From Lisa Bastien**

**Grade:** 9-10

**Length of class period:** 85 minutes

**Inquiry: (What essential question are students answering, what problem are they solving, or what decision are they making?)**

- What do the students feel is essential for American citizens to know in order to partake in American society?
- How does today's questioning compare to the questioning used on the Alabama Voter Test? What does this say about that time period and today?

**Objectives:**

Students will:

- Read and answer questions, based on prior knowledge, that could appear on the Naturalization Test
- Assess the validity of the questions when aligned with their personal thoughts and beliefs on what is important for a citizen to know in order to positively partake in today's American society.
- Be able to discuss the requirements of prospective citizens and compare them to what is expected of natural born American citizens.
- Compare and analyze the questioning of today's naturalization test to the questions asked on the 1965 Alabama test.

**Materials:** - Create a Naturalization Test for your students based on the practice questions from a variety of websites (25-50 questions).

-A sample test is attached. You can create your own test by using questions from online sources. One possible source:

[www.USACitizenshipTest.org](http://www.USACitizenshipTest.org)

- Alabama Voter Test

**Activities:**

1.) During the previous day's lesson students should be introduced to the Naturalization Process and the steps required prior to taking the test. When the students come in have them clear off their desks because they are taking a "test".

You can prompt it by saying that in order to pass they have to earn a grade of at least a 75%.

2.) Give students a set amount of time (depending on class needs) to complete the test as best they can based on prior knowledge.

3.) When all are complete collect and redistribute to different students and correct as a class. Allow students to contribute knowledge, allows for review of general government and US history knowledge. Students may struggle with reaching the 75% cut off. Many know they learned it at one point but have trouble recalling it for the sake of the test. This can be brought up later when they are asked to assess the test.

4.) Once the grading is complete have the students do a Think, Pair, Share regarding the validity of the questions when aligned with their personal thoughts and beliefs on what is important for a citizen to know in order to positively partake in today's American society.

Have students contribute their thoughts to a whole group discussion and make suggestions for questions that should appear on the test.

5.) Hand out copies of the 1965 Alabama Voter Test. Have the students compare and contrast the two tests based not only on the questions but the objective each was meant to achieve. Use a Venn diagram (individually or group) and discuss.

6.) For homework have the students answer the following questions: After looking at the Alabama Literacy Test how do they change or affect your opinion of the questions on today's Naturalization Test. Why? What does this say about Alabama in 1965?

### **How will you assess what student learned during this lesson?**

Mock Test participation

Contribution to class discussion

Venn diagram

Homework Question (reasoning and support)

### **Connecticut Framework Performance Standards**

**1.1** Analyze the influence of nationalism on American Society.

**1.9** Give examples of how individuals or groups have worked to expand or limit citizen's rights in the United States and other nations.

## 1965 Alabama Literacy Test

1. Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?

Public Education

Employment

Trial by Jury

Voting

2. The federal census of population is taken every five years.

True  False

3. If a person is indicted for a crime, name two rights which he has.

4. A U.S. senator elected at the general election in November takes office the following year  
on what date?

5. A President elected at the general election in November takes office the following year  
on what date?

6. Which definition applies to the word "amendment?"

Proposed change, as in a Constitution

Make of peace between nationals at war

A part of the government

7. A person appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court is appointed for a term of \_\_\_\_\_

8. When the Constitution was approved by the original colonies, how many states had to ratify it in order for it to be in effect? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Does enumeration affect the income tax levied on citizens in various states?

10. Person opposed to swearing in an oath may say, instead:  
(solemnly) \_\_\_\_\_

11. To serve as President of the United States, a person must have attained:

25 years of age

35 years of age

40 years of age

45 years of age

12. What words are required by law to be on all coins and paper currency of the U.S.?

13. The Supreme Court is the chief lawmaking body of the state.

True  False

14. If a law passed by a state is contrary to provisions of the U.S. Constitution, which law prevails?

15. If a vacancy occurs in the U.S. Senate, the state must hold an election, but meanwhile the place may be filled by a temporary appointment made by \_\_\_\_\_

16. A U.S. senator is elected for a term of \_\_\_\_\_ years.

17. Appropriation of money for the armed services can be only for a period limited to \_\_\_\_\_ years.

18. The chief executive and the administrative offices make up the

\_\_\_\_\_ branch of government.

19. Who passes laws dealing with piracy? \_\_\_\_\_

20. The number of representatives which a state is entitled to have in the House of Representatives is based on \_\_\_\_\_

21. The Constitution protects an individual against punishments which are

\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

22. When a jury has heard and rendered a verdict in a case, and the judgment on the verdict has become final, the defendant cannot again be brought to trial for the same cause.

True  False

23. Name two levels of government which can levy taxes:

\_\_\_\_\_

24. Communism was the type of government in:

U.S.

Russia

England

25. Cases tried before a court of law are two types, civil and

\_\_\_\_\_.

26. By a majority vote of the members of Congress, the Congress can change provisions of the Constitution of the U.S.

True  False

27. For security, each state has a right to form a

\_\_\_\_\_.

28. The electoral vote for President is counted in the presence of two bodies. Name them:

29. If no candidate for President receives a majority of the electoral vote, who decides who

- will become President? \_\_\_\_\_
30. Of the original 13 states, the one with the largest representation in the first Congress was \_\_\_\_\_.
31. Of which branch of government is the Speaker of the House a part?  
 Executive  
 Legislative  
 Judicial
32. Capital punishment is the giving of a death sentence.  
 True  False
33. In case the President is unable to perform the duties of his office, who assumes them?  
\_\_\_\_\_.
34. "Involuntary servitude" is permitted in the U.S. upon conviction of a crime.  
 True  False
35. If a state is a party to a case, the Constitution provides that original jurisdiction shall be in \_\_\_\_\_.
36. Congress passes laws regulating cases which are included in those over which the U.S. Supreme Court has \_\_\_\_\_ jurisdiction.
37. Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution.  
 Public Housing  
 Education  
 Voting  
 Trial by Jury
38. The Legislatures of the states decide how presidential electors may be chosen.  
 True  False
39. If it were proposed to join Alabama and Mississippi to form one state, what groups would have to vote approval in order for this to be done? \_\_\_\_\_
40. The Vice President presides over \_\_\_\_\_.
41. The Constitution limits the size of the District of Columbia to \_\_\_\_\_.
42. The only laws which can be passed to apply to an area in a federal arsenal are those passed by \_\_\_\_\_ provided consent for the purchase of the land is given by the \_\_\_\_\_.
43. In which document or writing is the "Bill of Rights" found? \_\_\_\_\_.
44. Of which branch of government is a Supreme Court justice a part?  
 Executive  
 Legislative  
 Judicial

45. If no person receives a majority of the electoral votes, the Vice President is chosen by the Senate.

True  False

46. Name two things which the states are forbidden to do by the U.S. Constitution.

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47. If election of the President becomes the duty of the U.S. House of Representatives and it

fails to act, who becomes President and when? \_\_\_\_\_

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48. How many votes must a person receive in order to become President if the election is decided by the U.S. House of Representatives? \_\_\_\_\_

49. How many states were required to approve the original Constitution in order for it to be

in effect? \_\_\_\_\_

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50. Check the offenses which, if you are convicted of them, disqualify you for voting:

Murder

Issuing worthless checks

Petty larceny

Manufacturing whiskey

51. The Congress decides in what manner states elect presidential electors.

True  False

52. Name two of the purposes of the U.S. Constitution.

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53. Congress is composed of \_\_\_\_\_.

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54. All legislative powers granted in the U.S. Constitution may legally be used only by \_\_\_\_\_.

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55. The population census is required to be made every \_\_\_\_\_ years.

56. Impeachments of U.S. officials are tried by \_\_\_\_\_.

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57. If an effort to impeach the President of the U.S. is made, who presides at the trial? \_\_\_\_\_

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58. On the impeachment of the chief justice of the Supreme Court of the U.S., who tries the

case? \_\_\_\_\_

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59. Money is coined by order of:

U.S. Congress

The President's Cabinet

State Legislatures

60. Persons elected to cast a state's vote for U.S. President and Vice President are called presidential \_\_\_\_\_.

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61. Name one power which is exclusively legislative and is mentioned in one of the parts of

the U.S. Constitution above \_\_\_\_\_.

62. If a person flees from justice into another state, who has authority to ask for his return?

\_\_\_\_\_

63. Whose duty is it to keep Congress informed of the state of the union? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

64. If the two houses of Congress cannot agree on adjournment, who sets the time?

\_\_\_\_\_

65. When presidential electors meet to cast ballots for President, must all electors in a state

vote for the same person for President or can they vote for different persons if they so choose? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

66. After the presidential electors have voted, to whom do they send the count of their votes?

\_\_\_\_\_

67. The power to declare war is vested in

\_\_\_\_\_.

68. Any power and rights not given to the U.S. or prohibited to the states by the U.S. Constitution are specified as belonging to whom? \_\_\_\_\_

## **US Citizenship Test**

Examples of questions taken from [www.USACitizenshipTest.org](http://www.USACitizenshipTest.org)

- 1.) What are the colors of the flag?
- 2.) How many stars are there in our flag?
- 3.) What colors are the stars on our flag?
- 4.) What do the stars on the flag mean?
- 5.) How many stripes are there on the flag?
- 6.) What color are the stripes?
- 7.) What do the stripes on the flag mean?
- 8.) How many states are there in the union (US)?
- 9.) What is the date of Independence Day?
- 10.) Independence from Whom?
- 11.) Who was the first president of the United States?
- 12.) Who is the president of the United States today?
- 13.) Who is the vice president of the US today?
- 14.) Who becomes president of the US if the president should die?
- 15.) For how long do we elect the president?
- 16.) What is the Constitution?
- 17.) Can the Constitution be changed?
- 18.) What are the three branches of government?

- 19.) Who makes the laws of the United States?
- 20.) What is Congress?
- 21.) Who elects Congress members?
- 22.) How many senators are there in Congress?
- 23.) For how long do we elect each senator?
- 24.) What are the duties of the Supreme Court?
- 25.) What is the Bill of Rights?
- 26.) What is the capital of your state?
- 27.) Who is the current governor of your state?
- 28.) Who becomes president of the United States if the president and the vice president die?
- 29.) Can you name the 13 original states?
- 30.) Which countries were our principal allies during World War II?
- 31.) What is the 49<sup>th</sup> state of the Union (US)?
- 32.) How many terms can a president serve?
- 33.) Who is the head of your local government?
- 34.) According to the constitution, a person must meet certain requirements in order to be eligible to become president. Name one of these requirements.
- 35.) Who selects the Supreme Court justices?
- 36.) How many Supreme Court justices are there?
- 37.) Why did the pilgrims come to America?
- 38.) What is the head executive of a city government called?
- 39.) What holiday was celebrated for the first time by the Americans Colonists?
- 40.) Who was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence?

- 41.) When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
- 42.) What is the basic belief of the Declaration of Independence?
- 43.) What is the National Anthem of the United States?
- 44.) Where does freedom of speech come from?
- 45.) What is the minimum voting age in the United States?
- 46.) Who signs bills into law?
- 47.) Who was president during the Civil War?
- 48.) What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
- 49.) What special group advises the president?
- 50.) Name three rights of freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?
- 51.) Who has the power to declare war?
- 52.) Where does Congress meet?
- 53.) What is the introduction to the Constitution called?
- 54.) What is the 50<sup>th</sup> state of the Union?
- 55.) What is the name of the president's official home?