

**Tooele County School District  
Civics Test Study Guide**

American Civics Education Initiative, S.B.60, was passed in the Utah legislative session of 2015. This law requires the successful passage of a basic civics test as a condition of graduation. This requirement applies to all public school students graduating on or after January 1, 2016, as well as any student enrolled in adult education programs. If you would like more information on this requirement please visit the following website: <http://www.uen.org/american-civics-education/>.

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

- a. freedom to petition the government and freedom to disobey traffic laws
- b. freedom of worship and freedom to make treaties with other countries
- c. freedom of speech and freedom to run for president
- d. freedom of speech and freedom of worship

**Correct Answer:** *d. freedom of speech and freedom of worship*

**2. What is freedom of religion?**

- a. you can't choose the time you practice your religion
- b. you must choose a religion
- c. you can practice any religion, or not practice a religion
- d. no one can practice a religion

**Correct Answer:** *c. you can practice any religion, or not practice a religion*

**3. Who is in charge of the executive branch?**

- a. the Speaker of the House
- b. the Prime Minister
- c. the President
- d. the Chief Justice

**Correct Answer:** *c. the President*

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

- a. State government
- b. Legislative
- c. Parliament
- d. United Nations

**Correct Answer:** *b. Legislative*

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

- a. the Articles of Confederation
- b. the inalienable rights
- c. the Declaration of Independence
- d. the Bill of Rights

**Correct Answer:** *d. the Bill of Rights*

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

- a. make treaties
- b. provide schooling and education
- c. create an army
- d. coin or print money

**Correct Answer:** *b. provide schooling and education*

**7. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?**

- a. the President
- b. the Vice President
- c. the Secretary of Defense
- d. the Attorney General

**Correct Answer:** *a. the President*

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

- a. President of the Senate
- b. Speaker of the House
- c. Governor of the most populated state
- d. Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

**Correct Answer:** *b. Speaker of the House*

**9. Who vetoes bills?**

- a. the President
- b. the Vice President
- c. the Senate
- d. the House of Representatives

**Correct Answer:** *a. the President*

**10. What does the President's Cabinet do?**

- a. advises the President
- b. selects the Vice President
- c. runs the government when the President travels
- d. negotiates treaties with foreign nations

**Correct Answer:** *a. advises the President*

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

- a. 10
- b. 4
- c. 2
- d. 6

**Correct Answer:** *d. 6*

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

- a. the President
- b. checks and balances
- c. the people
- d. freedom of speech

**Correct Answer:** *b. checks and balances*

**13. We elect a President for how many years?**

- a. 8
- b. 2
- c. 4
- d. 10

**Correct Answer:** *c. 4*

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

- a. We the People
- b. Congress shall make
- c. We the British
- d. We the Colonists

**Correct Answer:** *a. We the People*

**15. Who makes federal laws?**

- a. Congress
- b. the states
- c. the President
- d. the Supreme Court

**Correct Answer:** *a. Congress*

**16. What is the highest court in the United States?**

- a. Federal Appeals Court
- b. Supreme Court
- c. Circuit Court
- d. International Court of Justice

**Correct Answer:** *b. Supreme Court*

**17. What is the “rule of law”?**

- a. Everyone but the President must follow the law.
- b. Government does not have to follow the law.
- c. All laws must be the same in every state.
- d. Everyone must follow the law.

**Correct Answer:** *d. Everyone must follow the law.*

**18. What does the Constitution do?**

- a. Defines the government
- b. Sets up the government
- c. Protects basic rights of Americans
- d. All of these answers

**Correct Answer:** *d. All of these answers.*

**19. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?**

- a. 9
- b. 5
- c. 12
- d. 3

**Correct Answer:** *a. 9*

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

- a. December 31
- b. February 1
- c. June 1
- d. April 15

**Correct Answer:** *d. April 15*

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

- a. Reform and Green
- b. American and Bull-Moose
- c. Democratic-Republican and Whig
- d. Democratic and Republican

**Correct Answer:** *d. Democratic and Republican*

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

- a. to provide police departments
- b. to issue driver's licenses
- c. to make treaties
- d. to provide schooling

**Correct Answer:** *c. to make treaties*

**23. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?**

- a. All the people of the state in which s/he was elected.
- b. All people of the state who belong to the Senator's political party.
- c. The state legislatures.
- d. Only the people in the state who voted for the Senator.

**Correct Answer:** *a. All the people of the state which s/he was elected.*

**24. At what age do citizens become eligible to vote for President?**

- a. 35
- b. 16
- c. 21
- d. 18

**Correct Answer:** *d. 18*

**25. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?**

- a. The Declaration of Independence was written
- b. The Emancipation Proclamation was written
- c. The Constitution was written
- d. The Virginia Declaration of Rights was written

**Correct Answer:** c. The Constitution was written

**26. How many amendments does the Constitution have?**

- a. 19
- b. 18
- c. 25
- d. 27

**Correct Answer:** *d. 27*

**27. Which of these is a U.S. Territory?**

- a. Hawaii
- b. Cuba
- c. Puerto Rico
- d. Okinawa

**Correct Answer:** *c. Puerto Rico*

**28. What does the judicial branch do?**

- a. decides if a law goes against the Constitution
- b. reviews laws
- c. resolves disputes
- d. all of the above

**Correct Answer:** *d. all of the above*

**29. Name one American Indian Tribe in the United States.**

- a. Cherokee
- b. Guarani
- c. Igbo
- d. Tuareg

**Correct Answer:** *a. Cherokee*

**30. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?**

- a. Abraham Lincoln
- b. James Madison
- c. George Washington
- d. Thomas Jefferson

**Correct Answer:** *d. Thomas Jefferson*

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

- a. Write to a newspaper and call Senators and Representatives.
- b. Give an elected official your opinion on an issue and join a community group.
- c. Vote and join a civic group.
- d. All of these answers

**Correct Answer:** *d. All of these answers*

**32. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Which describes one of them?**

- a. Citizens 17 and older can vote.
- b. Citizens by birth only can vote.
- c. Citizens 18 and older can vote.
- d. Only citizens with a job can vote.

**Correct Answer:** *c. Citizens 18 and older can vote.*

**33. Who signs bills to become laws?**

- a. the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court
- b. the Vice President
- c. the Secretary of State
- d. the President

**Correct Answer:** *d. the President*

**34. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?**

- a. 441
- b. 435
- c. 200
- d. 100

**Correct Answer:** *b. 435*

**35. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?**

- a. because the state's representative have seniority in the house of representatives
- b. because of the state's population
- c. because of the geographical size of the state
- d. because of the state's location

**Correct Answer:** *b. because of the state's population*

**36. What is an amendment?**

- a. an addition to the Constitution
- b. the Preamble to the Constitution
- c. an introduction
- d. the beginning of the Declaration of Independence

**Correct Answer:** *a. an addition to the Constitution*

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

- a. St. Louis, MO
- b. Olympia, WA
- c. New York, NY
- d. Washington, DC

**Correct Answer:** *d. Washington, DC*

**38. What are two Cabinet-level positions?**

- a. Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State
- b. Governor of New York and Governor of California
- c. First Lady and White House Spokesperson
- d. President of the Senate and Speaker of the House

**Correct Answer:** *a. Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State*

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

- a. communism
- b. capitalism
- c. socialism
- d. none of these answers

**Correct Answer:** *b. capitalism*

**40. Who is one of Utah's U.S. Senators today?**

- a. Harry Reid
- b. Orrin Hatch
- c. Ted Cruz
- d. Rand Paul

**Correct Answer:** *b. Orrin Hatch*

**41. Who is one of Utah's U.S. Representatives today?**

- a. John Boehner
- b. Rob Bishop
- c. Ruth Bader Ginsburg
- d. Hillary Clinton

**Correct Answer:** *b. Rob Bishop*

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

- a. the House of Representatives and the courts
- b. the House of Lords and the House of Commons
- c. the Senate and the House of Representatives
- d. the Senate and the courts

**Correct Answer:** *c. the Senate and the House of Representatives*

**43. What is the supreme law of the land?**

- a. the Articles of Confederation
- b. the Constitution
- c. the Emancipation Proclamation
- d. the Declaration of Independence

**Correct Answer:** *b. the Constitution*

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

- a. 6
- b. 2
- c. 4
- d. 8

**Correct Answer:** *b. 2*

**45. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?**

- a. life and death
- b. life and pursuit of happiness
- c. liberty and justice
- d. life and the right to own a home

**Correct Answer:** *b. life and pursuit of happiness*

**46. What did the Declaration of Independence do?**

- a. declared our independence from Great Britain
- b. declared our independence from France
- c. gave women the right to vote
- d. freed the slaves

**Correct Answer:** *a. declared our independence from Great Britain*

**47. What is one right or freedom granted by the First Amendment?**

- a. trial by jury
- b. to vote
- c. to bear arms
- d. speech

**Correct Answer:** *b. speech*

**48. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?**

- a. gave the United States independence from Great Britain
- b. ended World War I
- c. gave women the right to vote
- d. freed slaves in most southern states

**Correct Answer:** *d. freed slaves in most southern states*

**49. How many U.S. Senators are there?**

- a. 200
- b. 435
- c. 100
- d. 50

**Correct Answer:** *c. 100*

**50. Who is the governor of Utah today?**

- a. Gary Herbert
- b. Mike Leavitt
- c. Orrin Hatch
- d. Mia Love

**Correct Answer:** *a. Gary Herbert*