U.S. Civics Test- Alternate Sample Items

Tennessee Department of Education | November 2020
The following sample test uses the questions from the Civics (History and Government) Questions for the Naturalization Test from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration website in order to fulfill T.C.A. § 49-6-408A:

(a) Beginning January 1, 2017, except as provided in subsection (c), a student, during the student's high school career, shall be given a United States civics test composed of questions from the one hundred (100) questions that are set forth within the civics test administered by the United States citizenship and immigration services to persons seeking to become naturalized citizens.

(b) An LEA shall prepare a test for its students composed of at least fifty (50) questions from those questions described in subsection (a). The test must be composed of at least twenty-nine (29) questions on American government, at least sixteen (16) questions on American history, and at least seven (7) questions on integrated civics. The LEA may prepare multiple versions of the test for use in different schools and at different times.

(c) A public high school may provide each student with the opportunity to take the test as many times as necessary for the student to pass the test.

(d) A student must correctly answer at least seventy percent (70%) of the questions to receive a passing score on the test.

(e) The department shall recognize a school on the department's website as a United States civics all-star school for any school year in which all of the school's seniors receiving a regular diploma make a passing grade of eighty-five percent (85%) or more on the United States civics test required under subsection (a).

Notwithstanding § 49-6-6001(a), a student must take and pass the civics test required by this section in order to meet the social studies course credit requirements to earn a full diploma.
upon graduation from high school. A passing score on the civics test must be noted on a student's transcript.

Each LEA shall prepare a test that meets the requirements of this statute. For those students with an IEP and who meet the eligibility requirements for the alternate assessments, the Department of Education has prepared a sample alternate test (below), but this is merely offered as a resource. There is no requirement to use the version of the U.S. civics test developed by the Department.
American Government

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
   a. the First Amendment
   b. the Constitution
   c. the Federalist Papers

2. Name one branch or part of the government?
   a. principal
   b. manager
   c. president

3. We elect a President for how many years?
   a. 2
   b. 4
   c. 6

4. What is the capital of your state?
   a. Nashville, TN
   b. Memphis, TN
   c. Knoxville, TN

5. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?
   a. own a home
   b. pay your bills
   c. vote in an election

6. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?
a. 16 years
b. 18 years
c. 21 years

American History

7. What is one reason colonists came to America?
   a. want to live in a city
   b. want to work for the king
   c. want freedom of religion, politics, or work

8. Who was the first President?
   a. Benjamin Franklin
   b. George Washington
   c. Thomas Jefferson

9. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?
   a. spoke for equal civil rights
   b. spoke for work unions
   c. spoke for economic reform

Integrated Civics

10. Name two national U.S. holidays.
    [open response item]
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18 20\_\_
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21 20\_\_
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- a. spoke for equal civil rights
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Integrated Civics

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[open response item]
American Government

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
   
   a. the First Amendment
   
   b. the Constitution
   
   c. the Federalist Papers

The First Amendment

The Constitution

The Federalist Papers

I don’t know
2. Name one branch or part of the government?

a. principal

b. manager

c. president

principal

manager

president

I don't know
3. We elect a President for how many years?

2
a. 2

4
b. 4

6
c. 6

2
2

4
4

6
6

I don't know
4. What is the capital of your state?

a. Nashville, TN

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

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   a. 16 years

18
   b. 18 years

21
   c. 21 years

16 16

18 18

21 21

I don't know
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Benjamin Franklin  George Washington
Thomas Jefferson  I don’t know
9. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

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   b. spoke for work unions

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Integrated Civics

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10. Name two national U. S. holidays.

[open response item]