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Citizenship 101: Your Guide to Citizenship

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“The only title in our democracy superior to that of President is the title of citizen.”

Louis D. Brandeis, Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, 1916-1939

Welcome to Citizenship 101: Your Guide to Citizenship!*

American Citizenship. It’s the most important and most valuable status a person in the United States can have. With it, you enjoy the highest level of rights, privileges, and freedoms guaranteed by our country. Citizenship symbolizes your commitment to the ideals, institutions, and values we all cherish.

Whether you have already decided to apply for citizenship or are “just looking”, the Citizenship 101: Your Guide to Citizenship video and workbook will help you determine if citizenship is right for you. We cover the requirements and procedures for “naturalization” (which is the way lawful permanent residents become citizens by meeting certain requirements and filing an application) and offer information and suggestions for every step of the process. Our hope is that Citizenship 101 serves you as a helpful and supportive resource in your quest to become an American citizen.

Important Messages About Citizenship 101

The information in this workbook is accurate as of October 2009. Check with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (“CIS”) for recent updates on naturalization requirements, procedures, fees, etc. CIS information can be obtained from its website at www.USCIS.gov or by calling its National Customer Service Center at (800)375-5283.

Because the laws of naturalization are often complex and change frequently, do not rely only on the video and workbook or consider any of this information legal advice. Instead, get help from a reputable immigration services organization or an experienced immigration attorney who can help you make sure you are eligible to naturalize, complete your application, and maybe even come with you to your citizenship interview.

Additionally, if you have ever been arrested, convicted, or jailed, or had any other encounters with law enforcement, either here in the U.S. or overseas, consult with a skilled immigration attorney before filing any kind of form with CIS. Immigration laws are harsh and the penalties for breaking them are severe. Incidents involving law enforcement (police, highway patrol, Border Patrol, etc.) should be revealed to and thoroughly investigated by an attorney, no matter how minor or old they seem, or even if they were “expunged” (erased) from your record. For immigration purposes, just about all crimes and offenses – including traffic violations – will be known to CIS and some may result in the denial of your application or, even worse, subject you to deportation. The law does not accept excuses such as “I forgot about it” or “It happened long ago” or “I had it expunged”. You are responsible for your eligibility for naturalization and any other immigration benefit. Be honest with yourself and please be careful!

* “101” traditionally refers to an introductory class in college. Citizenship 101 is your introduction to American citizenship!
1. Citizenship and You: Benefits and Responsibilities

Why become an American citizen? It’s a question you, as a permanent resident, may be asking yourself. Well, here are several reasons you may want to consider to help you make your decision.

- American citizens may vote in all federal (national), state, and local elections. By voting, you exercise your political power and advance your visions and ideals for our country and our communities.

- American citizens may immigrate their entire family: their spouses, their children (even if married), their parents, and their brothers and sisters. Permanent residents are limited to immigrating only their spouses and their unmarried children. And, citizens generally have their relatives’ immigration applications processed faster than papers filed by permanent residents.

- American citizens may carry a U.S. passport and enjoy the protection of the U.S. government when traveling overseas.

- American citizens may travel freely to other countries – in some cases without a visa – and return to the U.S. without the questioning and delays that permanent residents and other non-citizens go through.

- American citizens are eligible for all government assistance programs that require citizenship. Permanent residents qualify for only a few such programs and for only a limited period of time.

- American citizens are eligible for many educational benefits, including some scholarships, that permanent residents and others may not receive.

- American citizens may apply for jobs that require citizenship.

- American citizens may run for and hold public office. Senator [insert your name here] – how does that sound?

- American citizens may never be deported from the U.S. Permanent residents are always in danger of losing their status if they are convicted of certain crimes or if the government believes they gave up their residence.

- American citizens may stay outside the U.S. as long as they wish and still keep their citizenship and return to America.

- American citizens do not have to bother with the administrative costs of permanent residence, such as paying for a green card renewal every ten years or notifying the government of address changes.

- American citizens identify themselves with our nation’s principles and traditions, giving themselves a strong, lasting sense of security and community.

While there are many good reasons to become a citizen, you should consider some of these important responsibilities, costs, and risks before you decide to apply:

- American citizens must be willing to serve our nation when necessary.
American citizens are required to serve on jury duty. Some people – even those born in the U.S. – complain about the inconvenience of this, but one of the great privileges of all Americans is to participate directly in our justice system.

Naturalized American citizens must give up their allegiance to other countries (although they may retain their citizenship to another nation if that country allows it).

Naturalized American citizens may lose certain benefits provided by their former country of nationality, such as the right to hold property.

Naturalization applicants under 75 years of age have to pay $675 to file the application. (Applicants 75 and older pay $595.) If you are not approved for citizenship, you will not get a refund.

Naturalization applicants open their entire immigration history and criminal record for review by CIS, which can use the information to deny the application or, even worse, lead to deportation from the U.S.

The naturalization process can be long, confusing, frustrating, costly, and even scary for some applicants, particularly those who have already had an unpleasant experience with the government over an immigration matter.

Think about these before you decide whether to apply for citizenship. Family, friends, teachers, elected officials, and others may want the best for you and urge you to become a citizen. However, you are the one who would need to meet the requirements, go through the application process, and assume the responsibilities of citizenship. Naturalization, therefore, begins with a personal choice – your choice. Decide carefully.

2. How to Become a Citizen

Generally, there are four ways to become an American citizen.

1. **Birth in the U.S.**: If you were born in the U.S., you are and have always been a U.S. citizen. The U.S. includes the 50 American states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

2. **Birth to U.S. citizen parents**: If you were born outside the U.S. and at least one of your parents was a U.S. citizen at that time, you may be a U.S. citizen now.

3. **Naturalization of parent**: If you were born outside the U.S. and one of your parents later became a U.S. citizen while you were under 18 and a permanent resident, you may be a U.S. citizen now.

4. **Naturalization**: If you are a permanent resident and at least 18 years old, and you meet certain requirements, you may apply to become a U.S. citizen.

This simplified list is presented to give you an idea of how people may become U.S. citizens. There are details and exceptions that you need to know in order to determine whether any of these actually apply to you. If you think you might qualify for citizenship through one of the 4 ways, consult with an immigration professional. (Note that *Citizenship 101: Your Guide to Citizenship* covers only naturalization, not any of the other ways of becoming a citizen.)
3. Naturalization: The Process

If you’ve decided that American citizenship is your destiny, congratulations! With a little hard work and determination, you can make this dream come true.

Here are the basic steps you have to take to naturalize. The process is simple, but sometimes issues arise that make it slower or more complicated. We will give you information and guidance to help you deal with some problems you might see.

**Step 1: Check your eligibility.** This, in many ways, is the most important part of the naturalization process. You need to be absolutely sure you are qualified to naturalize before you file your application. If you send in your application without being fully eligible, it will be denied and you will not receive a refund of your application fees. Furthermore, if you have a criminal history, you may end up in a deportation case in immigration court. So take as much time as you need to go through the requirements and consult with an immigration professional if you have any questions.

**Step 2: Complete and file Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.** The N-400 is the form you will need to fill out and send to CIS in order to naturalize. We cover this form more thoroughly in “Form N-400: Application for Naturalization” beginning on page 14.

**Step 3: Have your fingerprints taken.** If you are under 75 years of age at the time you file your application, you will need to have your fingerprints taken. CIS will arrange to have this done, and will send you an appointment notice. If you are 75 years of age or older when you file, you will not have your fingerprints taken.

**Step 4: Pass an interview and English and civics examinations.** For many citizenship applicants, the interview is the most frightening part of the naturalization process, although it doesn’t have to be. You will meet individually with an immigration officer, who will ask you questions from your application to make sure all the information you provided shows that you are eligible for citizenship. Then, the officer will give you a test on your English skills and a test on U.S. government and history. With enough preparation, you should not have any reason to be nervous about this step. Since the interview is such an important part of your naturalization, we cover it in greater depth in “Your Naturalization Interview” beginning on page 30.

**Step 5: Take the Oath of Allegiance.** The Oath of Allegiance is a promise to yourself and to your new homeland. When you recite the Oath at a naturalization ceremony, you declare your faith in and loyalty to America, its people, and its principles. This moment is likely to be one of the proudest you will ever experience – the day you can call yourself an American citizen!

4. Naturalization Requirements

Here is a summary of the basic requirements you will need to meet in order to naturalize to U.S. citizenship. A more in-depth explanation of the requirements follows this list.

- **Age:** You must be at least 18 years old.
- **Permanent Residence:** You must have been granted lawful permanent residence (that is, you have a “green card”).
- **Continuous Residence**: You must have continuously resided in the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident for at least 5 years. Under a special “3-year rule”, if you 1) are married to a U.S. citizen and meet other requirements, or 2) obtained permanent residence as a survivor of domestic violence, you may apply after only 3 years of continuous residence.

- **CIS Residence**: You must have lived for at least 3 months in the state or CIS district where you file your application.

- **Physical Presence**: You must have been physically present in the U.S. for at least 2½ out of the past 5 years (or 1½ out of the past 3 years if you meet the requirements of the “3-year rule” described above).

- **Good Moral Character**: You must show you are a good person, obey the law, and support the principles of the U.S. Constitution.

- **U.S. Government and History**: You must have a basic understanding of U.S. government and history.

- **English**: You must be able to understand, speak, read, and write basic English. You must also be able to afford the $675 filing/biometrics fee. If you are 75 years of age or older, you pay only the $595 filing fee.

Here is more information on each of the requirements:

**Age**

You must be at least 18 years of age at the time you file your Application for Naturalization. If you are under 18, you may not use this application, but perhaps you can become a citizen another way (for example, by your parent becoming a citizen and passing his/her citizenship on to you); see Chapter 2: How To Become a Citizen.

**Permanent Residence**

You must have been admitted to the U.S. as a lawful permanent resident (meaning the government issued a “green card” to you) and you continue to be a permanent resident. As a permanent resident, of course, you have the right to live and work in the U.S. indefinitely as long as you meet the requirements to keep that status.

**Caution: Abandonment of Residence**: You must be careful not to give up, or abandon, your permanent residence status. This could happen if you take long or numerous trips outside the U.S. or if you do anything else (such as getting a job in another country) that leads the government to believe that you ended your status, even if you did not intend to do so. If you are found to have abandoned your residence, you are no longer eligible for citizenship and may end up in deportation proceedings. See an immigration professional before you file an application.

**Continuous Residence**

You must have “continuously resided” in the U.S. as a permanent resident for the past 5 years. Continuous residence means that the U.S. was your actual, principal home throughout this entire time period. So while you can still take trips outside the U.S. for vacations,
you must be careful not to spend too much time abroad, which would interrupt or cause a “break” in your residence.

How long of a trip will cause a break? Here are the rules:

- A trip that lasts less than 6 months will not cause a break.
- A trip that lasts between 6 months and 1 year is considered a break. However, that can be overcome if you show that your home in the U.S. was your primary residence. To do this, you could bring in evidence that, during your absence: your immediate family was in the U.S., your employer held your job open for you, etc.
- A trip that lasts for 1 year or more will always break continuity. This may not apply, however, to residents in certain cases, including those who work overseas for the U.S. government or religious organizations.

Once continuity is broken, you must restart the 5 years of continuous residence on the day you come back to the U.S. from that trip. In these cases, however, CIS says that instead of waiting the full 5 years, you may file after only 4 years and 1 day have passed since your return.

3-Year Rule for Spouses of Citizens: If you are married to and living with a U.S. citizen, you may not have to wait 5 years – you might be able to file for citizenship after only 3 years of continuous residence. To qualify under this “3-year rule”, 1) your husband/wife must have been a citizen for at least 3 years, and 2) you must have been married to and living with him/her for at least 3 years. If both of these are true, you will be allowed to file your application after just 3 years of continuous residence. CIS may further require you to remain married to and living with that U.S. citizen husband/wife throughout the entire naturalization process.

As with the standard 5-year continuous residence requirement, if you qualify under the 3-year rule but break continuity of your residence, you must restart the 3 years of continuous residence all over again. But instead of waiting the full 3 years, you may file after just 2 years and 1 day have passed since your return to the U.S. from that trip.

3-Year Rule for Domestic Violence Survivors: Like spouses of U.S. citizens as described above, individuals who became permanent residents as a result of having survived violence by a U.S. citizen spouse or parent need not wait till they have 5 years of continuous residence; they may file their N-400s after just 3 years of continuous residence.

Early Filing: CIS allows all applicants to send in their N-400 up to 90 days before they reach their 5- (or 3-) year eligibility date. So, for example, if your 5-year date is November 10, you may file your application as early as August 12 of that year. The same 90-day “early
filing” opportunity applies to applicants who qualify under the “3-year rule” explained above. In either case, you must have met all other naturalization requirements by the time you send in your application. For example, if you are eligible for citizenship under the 3-year rule by being married to a U.S. citizen, and you want to file during the 90-day early filing period, you must have been both married to and living with your U.S. citizen spouse for at least 3 years at the time you file your N-400.

Residence After Filing: Note that you must continue to maintain residence in the U.S. from the time your application is filed till the moment you naturalize. So you may still travel abroad after you apply as long as you do not interrupt the continuity of your residence by taking long trips.

CIS Residence

You must have lived in the state or CIS district where you file your N-400 for the past 3 months.

Remember that CIS will let you file your application up to 90 days before you reach your 5-year residence date (or 3-year residence date if you meet the “3-year rule”). If you file within this early 90-day period, you are allowed to satisfy the state/CIS district residence requirement simply by residing in your state/CIS district for the 3 months before your naturalization interview, rather than the 3 months before your N-400 filing date.

Physical Presence

You must have been physically present in the U.S. for at least 2½ years out of the past 5 years. To see if you meet this requirement, subtract the total time of all the trips you’ve taken outside the U.S. – including visits to Mexico and Canada – from the past 5 years. If the remaining amount (that is, the amount of time you were actually here in the U.S.) is equal to or more than 2½ years (or 30 months), you meet this requirement.

Applicants who qualify for citizenship under the “3-year rule” (because of either marriage to a U.S. citizen or obtaining their green card as a survivor of domestic violence) need just 1½ years (or 18 months) of physical presence in the U.S.

Good Moral Character

You must be able to show that you have had “good moral character” for the entire 5- (or 3-) year period before filing your application. For some applicants, this can be a tricky and difficult requirement, and the consequences for not understanding it can be severe (including deportation). At the very least, you should talk with an experienced immigration attorney for assistance if you have any questions.

First, there are some people who will not even be allowed to show they have good moral character, and so will never be able to naturalize. This group of people includes those with convictions for serious crimes and those who engage in other unacceptable behavior.
On the other hand, some crimes will not prevent an applicant from showing he/she has good moral character, but might still result in denial of the application or other problems. So, if you have a history that includes any of the following, you should consult with an experienced immigration attorney before you even begin to consider filing for citizenship:

- Murder
- Rape
- Sexual abuse of a minor
- Drug trafficking
- Firearms trafficking
- Money laundering
- Crimes of violence
- Theft and burglary
- Alien smuggling
- Creating or using fake documents
- Multiple crimes
- Crimes resulting in long jail sentences
- Habitual drunkenness
- Illegal gambling
- Prostitution (sex for money)
- Polygamy (married to two or more people at the same time)
- Lying to enter or to get legal status in the U.S.
- Failing to pay child support or alimony (money to support a former husband or wife)
- Failing to complete probation or parole
- Terrorist acts
- Threatening or harming others because of their race, religion, national origin, etc.

This is not a complete list, and there are many details and exceptions that must be considered in order to analyze an individual’s case properly. Other crimes, acts, and conduct (such as refusing to pay income taxes) may not subject you to deportation, but might still make you ineligible for citizenship. Again, talk with an experienced immigration lawyer before you file an N-400.

It is very important that even if you have crimes or offenses on your record that do not affect your eligibility for naturalization, you must
still mention them on your Application for Naturalization. If you do not, CIS may think you are being dishonest with them and will deny your application because of that.

**U.S. Government and History**

You must have a basic understanding of U.S. government and history fundamentals, also known as “civics”. See Appendix C: “Naturalization Examination: U.S. Government and History” for more information about this requirement for citizenship.

A simplified examination is available for applicants who are at least 65 years old and have been permanent residents for at least 20 years as of the date they file their application. There are only 20 questions for this exam. See Appendix C for more information.

A waiver of the civics requirement is also available for applicants who have mental, developmental, or physical disabilities so severe that they cannot learn civics or demonstrate their understanding of it. Applicants seeking this waiver must have their doctor complete CIS Form N-648, “Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions”, available at www.USCIS.gov. For more information, see Appendix F: “Disability Waiver of the English and Civics Requirements”.

**English**

You must be able to understand, speak, read, and write basic English. Your ability to speak and understand English will be tested during your interview as you and a CIS officer (known as an “examiner”) review your application together. Your English reading and writing skills will be tested using the words listed in Appendix D: “Naturalization Examination: English Reading Vocabulary” and Appendix E: “Naturalization Examination: English Writing Vocabulary”.

There is a waiver of the English requirement for older applicants who have been permanent residents for a long time. Specifically, an applicant does not have to be able to speak, read, or write English if, on the date his/her application is filed, he/she:

- Is at least 55 years of age and has been a permanent resident for at least 15 years, or
- Is at least 50 years of age and has been a permanent resident for at least 20 years.

Applicants who qualify for the English waiver based on one of the above will be allowed to have an interpreter help them at the interview, although individual CIS offices may have different policies on who may be allowed to do the interpretation. Note that even if someone qualifies for an English waiver, he/she must still take the civics examination (through the interpreter). No special form or procedure is needed to get this waiver.

As with the civics examination, a waiver of the English requirement is also available for applicants who have mental, developmental, or physical disabilities so severe that they cannot learn the language or
demonstrate their language skills. Applicants seeking this waiver must have their doctor complete a CIS Form N-648, “Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions”, available at www.USCIS.gov.
For more information, see Appendix F: “Disability Waiver of the English and Civics Requirements”.

If you meet the requirements for naturalization as described above, continue to the next section, “Form N-400: Application for Naturalization”, to learn how to complete the application. If you do not meet the requirements now, you may want to talk with an immigration professional to see how you can qualify in the future.

5. Form N-400: Application for Naturalization

The “Application for Naturalization”, also known simply as the “N-400”, is the document you will need to complete and send to CIS in order to naturalize to U.S. citizenship. The Citizenship 101 video and workbook will help you fill out the form.

How to Get the N-400

The N-400 is free and available from many sources, including the following. Remember, CIS will accept a copy of it as long as the information and your signature are original.

- **CIS website**: If you have access to the Internet, you may go to the CIS website to obtain the form: www.USCIS.gov > “Forms” > “Citizenship and Naturalization Based Forms” > “Application for Naturalization” (Form N-400).

  Read the information on this webpage, then click the “N-400 Instructions” and “N-400” links to get the actual forms. You may complete the N-400 while it’s on the computer screen and then print it for filing. Otherwise, you can print out the blank form first and then complete it by printing or typing in your responses.

- **CIS Customer Service Center**: You can call the CIS Customer Service Center at (800)375-5283. Follow the recorded instructions so you can leave your name and address, and CIS will send you the N-400 by mail.

- **Library**: Your local public library may have the N-400 for you to copy.

- **Citizenship and ESL classes**: If you attend a citizenship or an English as a Second Language (ESL) class at your local school, you may be able to get the N-400 from your teacher. He/she may even be able to help you complete the form and prepare you for your interview.

- **Non-profit immigration organizations**: Many non-profit agencies are qualified to help immigrants complete the N-400 at little or no cost, so you should check with one near your home to see if it can assist you.

Also, remember to use the most recent version of the N-400 or any N-400 version still accepted by CIS. The version is identified by the date printed at the bottom right-hand corner of each page of the application (currently it’s “1/22/09”). The N-400 page at the CIS website lists other versions that you may use. A sample N-400 is shown in Appendix B: “N-400 Application for Naturalization”. 
Completing Your N-400

Before you fill out the N-400, make sure you read and follow the instructions carefully. The information there will help you avoid costly mistakes.

Please note the following general rules:

- Type or neatly print your responses in black ink. Use capital letters.
- Answer with “NONE” if appropriate or “N/A” (which means “not applicable”) if the question does not apply to you.
- Print your A-number (“alien registration number”) in the box at the top of every page.
- Write dates in mm/dd/yyyy format (for example, June 21, 1978, would be written as “06/21/1978”).
- If you need more space to answer a question, use a separate sheet of paper with your name, A-number, and question number on it.

Next, we go through the N-400, part-by-part, question-by-question. In the left column, you will find the questions as they appear in the N-400. In the right column are explanations of the questions and tips to help you answer them. Be careful though – these explanations and tips should not be considered legal advice and are provided here only to help you understand what the questions are asking.

Refer to the sample N-400 in Appendix B as you go through the questions.

Ready? Let’s go!

N-400: Part-by-Part, Question-by-Question

Write your USCIS A-number here (upper right hand corner of page)  Start by printing your “USCIS A-number” in the box in the upper right-hand corner of every page. Your A-number appears on your green card; it begins with the letter “A”. Most A-numbers have 8 digits (for example, A 12 345 678). If yours has 8 digits, add a “0” before the first digit when you write it so you end up with a 9-digit A-number. In this example then, you would write your A-number as “012 345 678”. If your A-number already has 9 digits (for example, A 123 456 789), then just write in the A-number as it appears without adding a “0” (“123 456 789”).

Part 1. Your Name

A: Your current legal name  In these boxes, print your legal Family Name (also known as your “last name”), your Given Name (your “first name”), and your Full Middle Name (if you have one). If your first name has 2 or more parts to it (such as “Maria Lourdes” or “Bich Ngoc”), print both parts in the Given Name box. Your legal name typically appears on your birth certificate and passport.

B: Your name exactly as it appears on your Permanent Resident Card  Here, you print your name the way it is shown on your green card, even if your name is misspelled or otherwise incorrect.

C: If you have ever used other names, provide them below  In this section, you need to print any names you’ve ever used in the past. These can be your maiden name, your birth name if different from your current name, etc.
D: Name change

If you want to change your name, this is an opportunity to do so. You would answer “yes” to the question, “Would you like to legally change your name?” Then, you print the name you would like to change to. For example, if you want to change your name to that of a famous singer, you might print “DION” in the Family Name box and “CELINE” in the Given Name box. Note that you may not use your new name until you become a U.S. citizen.

If you do not want to change your name, just check the “No” box at question D.1. and go to Part 2.

Part 2. Information About Your Eligibility

Your Eligibility

This question asks you how you have become eligible to naturalize. You must be at least 18 years old, of course. Then you choose the appropriate answer from the four options:

A. You've been a permanent resident (“green card holder”) for at least 5 years.

B. You've been a permanent resident (“green card holder”) for at least 3 years, you're married to a U.S. citizen and you've been married to (and living with) him/her for at least 3 years, and he/she has been a citizen for at least 3 years.

C. You served or are serving in the U.S. military.

D. You qualify for citizenship on some other basis (for example, if you were granted permanent residence status because you were abused by your U.S. citizen spouse or parent).

Part 3. Information About You

A: U.S. Social Security Number

Write your Social Security number in this box. Use the ###-##-#### format (for example, 123-45-6789).

B: Date of Birth

Write your date of birth. Remember, the date must be in mm/dd/yyyy format (for example, May 14, 1972, would be written as “05/14/1972”).

C: Date You Became a Permanent Resident

Write in the date you became a lawful permanent resident. This date is on your green card. The latest type of green card has the permanent residence date next to “Resident since”. Older green cards may have your permanent residence date on the back, and sometimes it will be difficult to find. You should check with an immigration professional if you are not sure.

D: Country of Birth

Print the name of the country where you were born. If the name has changed since your birth, use the country’s name at the time you were born.

E: Country of Nationality

Print the name of the country of which you are a citizen. Very often, but not always, it is the same as your country of birth. If you are a citizen of more than one country, list all of them.

F: Are either of your parents U.S. citizens?

If at least one of your parents is a U.S. citizen, check “yes” and consult with an immigration professional to see if your parent might have passed along his/her citizenship to you. (If you did get citizenship through your parent, you would not have to complete this form since you would already be a citizen.)

G: What is your current marital status?

Here, you will select the answer that describes your marital status now. Note that if you are married but physically or legally separated from your spouse, you are still considered married, so you must check the “married” box.

H: Are you requesting a waiver of the English and/or U.S. History and Government requirements

As we mentioned earlier, to naturalize to U.S. citizenship, you must be able to speak basic English and understand U.S. government and history (“civics”). However, there is a waiver of this requirement: if you can show that you have a disability so severe that it prevents you from either learning English and civics.
based on a disability or impairment and attaching Form N-648 with your application?

If you have a disability or impairment that would prevent you from completing a part of the naturalization process, you may ask for an “accommodation”. Accommodations do not let you skip requirements; they merely remove obstacles that would otherwise stop you from showing your eligibility. For example, if you use a wheelchair, CIS must provide proper adjustments (such as ramps and wider doors at its office) to enable you to come to your interview.

Part 4. Addresses and Telephone Numbers

CIS will send you receipts, appointment notices, and other documents by mail. Make sure the information you enter here is correct; if CIS cannot notify you of an appointment because of a wrong address, it may deny your application without giving you a chance to respond.

A: Home Address
Print the address of your current residence, the place where you physically live. Do not enter a post office box, unless you are really small and actually live in one.

B. Care of
If you wish to use another person’s mailing address or a post office box to receive mail from CIS, print that information in these boxes. This is a good idea if mail service at your home is not reliable, secure, or convenient.

C: Daytime Phone Number
Evening Phone Number
E-Mail Address
Enter your daytime phone number, evening phone number, and e-mail address. If you do not have one or all of them, you may write "NONE" in the appropriate boxes. For phone numbers, you may use your mobile phone number.

Part 5. Information for Criminal Records Search

A: Gender
Here, check the box corresponding to your sex.

B: Height
Write in your height, in feet and inches.

C: Weight
Write in your weight, in pounds.

D: Are you Hispanic or Latino?
If you are Hispanic or Latino, check the “Yes” box. Otherwise, check “No”.

E: Race
Check the box corresponding to your race. You may select more than one race if appropriate.

F: Hair color
Check the box corresponding to your natural hair color.

G: Eye color
Check the box corresponding to your eye color.

Part 6. Information About Your Residence and Employment

A: Where have you lived during the last five years?
You will need to provide the addresses of all the places you’ve lived at for the past five years, beginning with your current residence. Note that your current address is already filled in for you where it says “Current Home Address”; all you have to do is write in the date you started living there (in the “From” column). Then, if you’ve lived at other places in the past 5 years, print those addresses along with the dates you lived at each.

B: Where have you worked
List all the places you worked at and the schools you attended in the past
(or, if you were a student, what schools did you attend) during the last five years?

five years, beginning with the most recent. Just as in the previous question, you will need to include the dates you started and ended your work or education at each job or school. Include periods that you were not working or attending school due to lay-offs, job-searching, illness, retirement, etc. If you need more space to complete your answer, continue your response on a separate sheet of paper.

Part 7. Time Outside the United States

Note: If you’ve taken several trips outside the U.S., you may find it more convenient to begin with Question C below. Once you’ve answered that question, you can use the information from there to answer Questions A and B.

A. How many total days did you spend outside the U.S. during the past five years?

Add up the number of days you spent in other countries in the past five years. Write the total here. Don’t forget trips to Canada and Mexico.

B: How many trips of 24 hours or more have you taken outside the U.S. during the past five years?

Add up the number of trips you took to other countries in the past five years.

C: List below all the trips of 24 hours or more that you have taken outside the U.S. since becoming a lawful permanent resident.

Here, you will need to list information about all the trips you took outside the U.S. since you became a permanent resident. Count only those trips that lasted at least 24 hours. Include trips to Mexico and Canada. You may find your travel information in your passport. If you cannot remember your travel history, check with family and friends who might know when you took certain trips. Your travel agent or airline may have this information as well.

Part 8. Information About Your Marital History

A: How many times have you been married?

Enter the number of times you have been married, including your current marriage (if you’re now married) and any annulled marriages. If your answer here is “0”, skip the rest of Part 8 and move on to Part 9.

B: If you are now married, give the following information about your spouse:

Complete Question B only if you are currently married.

1. Spouse’s Family Name

Print your spouse’s family (or “last”) name, his/her given (“first”) name, and his/her middle name (if any) in these boxes.

2. Date of Birth

Write your spouse’s birth date. Remember, mm/dd/yyyy format.

3. Date of Marriage

Write in the date you and your spouse were married to each other.

4. Spouse’s U.S. Social Security Number

Write in your spouse’s 9-digit Social Security number in ###-##-#### format.

5. Home Address

Print your spouse’s home address, including street number and name, apartment or unit number (if any), city, state, and zip code.

C: Is your spouse a U.S. citizen?

Answer “yes” if your spouse was born in the U.S. or became a U.S. citizen by naturalizing or some other way. If your spouse is not a U.S. citizen, answer “no” and skip ahead to Question E.

D: If your spouse is a U.S. citizen, give the following information:

Answer Question D only if your husband or wife is a U.S. citizen now.
1. When did your spouse become a U.S. citizen? If your spouse was born in the U.S. or to U.S. citizen parents, check the “At Birth” box and skip to Question E; otherwise check the “Other” box.

2. Date your spouse became a U.S. citizen Enter the date your spouse became a U.S. citizen.

3. Place your spouse became a U.S. citizen Print the city and state where your spouse became a U.S. citizen.

E: If your spouse is not a U.S. citizen, give the following information:

1. Spouse’s Country of Citizenship Print the country of which your spouse is a citizen.

2. Spouse’s USCIS A-Number If your spouse has an A-number, write it here. Otherwise, print “NONE”.

3. Spouse’s Immigration Status If your spouse is a lawful permanent resident (meaning he/she has a green card), check the box next to “Lawful Permanent Resident”. If your spouse is not a lawful permanent resident, check the “Other” box and print his/her immigration status (for example, “F-1 FOREIGN STUDENT”).

F: If you were married before, provide the following information about your prior spouse. Complete this section only if you were married before but are no longer married to that person. If you have been married more than once before, include the following information for all other prior spouses on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Prior Spouse’s Family Name, Given Name, Full Middle Name Print your prior spouse’s family (or “last”) name, given (“first”) name, and middle name (if any) in these boxes.

2. Prior Spouse’s Immigration Status Check the box that corresponds to your prior spouse’s current immigration status. If the prior spouse is not a U.S. citizen and not a lawful permanent resident, check “Other” and print his/her immigration status.

3. Date of Marriage Write the date of your marriage to your prior spouse.

4. Date Marriage Ended Write the date your marriage to your prior spouse ended.

5. How Marriage Ended Check the box that describes the reason for the end of your marriage to your prior spouse. If the marriage ended neither by divorce nor by his/her death, check “Other” and print the reason for the end of the marriage.

G: How many times has your current spouse been married? Write the number of times your spouse has been married, including your current marriage and any annulled marriages. For example, if you are married now and this is your spouse’s first and only marriage, write in the number 1. If your current spouse was married before he/she married you, complete this section. Remember, this section is for your spouse’s previous marriages, not yours.

1. Prior Spouse’s Family Name, Given Name, Full Middle Name Print your husband/wife’s prior spouse’s family (or “last”) name, given (“first”) name, and middle name in these boxes.

2. Prior Spouse’s Immigration Status Check the box that corresponds to your husband/wife’s prior spouse’s current immigration status. If the prior spouse is not a U.S. citizen and not a lawful permanent resident, check “Other” and print his/her immigration status. If you do not know his/her immigration status, print “UNKNOWN”.

3. Date of Marriage Write the date of your husband/wife’s marriage to his/her prior spouse.
4. Date Marriage Ended
Write the date your husband/wife’s marriage to his/her prior spouse ended.

5. How Marriage Ended
Check the box that describes the reason for the end of your spouse’s marriage to his/her prior spouse. If the marriage ended neither by divorce nor by the prior spouse’s death, check “Other” and print the reason.

Part 9. Information About Your Children

A: How many sons and daughters have you had?
Add up the number of your children and enter that number in the box. Include all your children, including adult children, minor children, married children, stepchildren, adopted children, children living overseas, and deceased children.

B: Provide the following information about all your sons and daughters.
For each of your children (as described above), provide the following information in this chart. It may help to list your children beginning with the oldest one. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper.

- Full name of Son or Daughter
  Print your child’s family (or “last”) name, given (“first”) name, and middle name (if any).

- Date of Birth
  Write your child’s birth date.

- USCIS A-number
  Write your child’s A-number. If he/she doesn’t have one, print “NONE”. If your child is a U.S. citizen, print “U.S. CITIZEN”.

- Country of Birth
  Print the name of the country your child was born in.

- Current Address
  If your child lives with you, you may enter “WITH ME” instead of writing the full address. If your child lives outside the U.S., you should still provide an address for him/her.

Part 10. Additional Questions

The questions in Part 10 are among the most important in this application. Your answers to them will help CIS determine your eligibility to naturalize to U.S. citizenship. You should be aware, however, that certain answers to certain questions could reveal to CIS the existence of a serious immigration-related problem that might lead not only to denial of the application but to deportation.

Here, especially, you need to understand the questions in order to answer them correctly. The explanations and guidance in the right-hand column below may include simplified versions of the questions and should be used only to give you a better idea of what is being asked. **They are not official instructions or legal advice.** If you do not understand the question, you should get help from someone with experience in immigration law and who, if necessary, can speak your language.

Check “Yes” or “No” to each question. As the instructions indicate, if you answer “Yes” to any of these questions, you should include a written explanation with the application. The explanation should describe why your answer is “Yes” and include any additional information that helps to explain your answer. More importantly, if you have to answer “Yes” to any of these questions, stop and consult with an immigration lawyer for further assistance. A “Yes” response may not necessarily be a problem for some questions, but could be for others. In any case, do not risk your future by guessing. Talk with a professional.

Remember, your answers must be complete and accurate.

A. General Questions

1: Have you ever claimed to be a U.S. citizen (in writing or any other way)?
Check “Yes” if you ever told anyone or signed a paper saying that you are already a U.S. citizen.

2: Have you ever registered to vote in any Federal, State, or local election in the U.S.?
Check “Yes” if you ever signed up to vote in an election in the U.S.
3: Have you ever voted in any Federal, State, or local election in the U.S.? Check “Yes” if you ever actually voted in a government election in the U.S.

4: Since becoming a lawful permanent resident, have you ever failed to file a required Federal, State, or local tax return? Check “Yes” if you forgot or refused to file a tax return that you were required to file since you became a permanent resident. You do not have to mention missed filings that happened before you became a permanent resident.

5: Do you owe any Federal, State, or local taxes that are overdue? Check “Yes” if you owe tax money to the government.

6: Do you have any title of nobility in any foreign country? Check “Yes” if you are from a royal family of another nation.

7: Have you ever been declared legally incompetent or been confined to a mental institution within the last five years? Check “Yes” if the government has ever appointed someone to take care of you because you couldn’t take care of yourself. Also check “Yes” if you were held at a mental institution within the past 5 years.

B. Affiliations

8a/8b: Have you ever been a member of or associated with any organization, association, fund, foundation, party, club, society, or similar group in the U.S. or in any other place? If you answered “Yes”, list the name of each group below. List any and all organizations you belong or belonged to. This is a good opportunity to show your “good moral character” (a requirement for naturalization) by listing any volunteer activities you do, any service organizations you belong to, any faith-based institutions (such as church, temple, synagogue, mosque) you’re a member of, etc. If you need more space, add the names of the other group(s) on a separate sheet of paper.

9: Have you ever been a member of or in any way associated (either directly or indirectly) with:
   a. The Communist Party?
   b. Any other totalitarian party?
   c. A terrorist organization?

Check “Yes” for any of these questions if you’ve ever been involved with a) the Communist Party, regardless of country; b) a totalitarian party (which believes the government should control everything); or c) a group that uses violence to promote its political, religious, or other goals.

10: Have you ever advocated (either directly or indirectly) the overthrow of any government by force or violence? Check “Yes” if you have ever participated in or otherwise supported a sudden or violent change of government.

11. Have you ever persecuted (either directly or indirectly) any person because of race, religion, national origin, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion? Check “Yes” if you have ever threatened or harmed someone because of his/her race, ethnicity, nationality, beliefs, culture, background, etc.
12. Between March 23, 1933, and May 8, 1945, did you work for or associate in any way (either directly or indirectly) with:

a. The Nazi government of Germany?  
b. Any government in any area (1) occupied by, (2) allied with, or (3) established with the help of the Nazi government of Germany?  
c. Any German, Nazi, or S.S. military unit, paramilitary unit, self-defense unit, vigilante unit, citizen unit, police unit, government agency or office, extermination camp, concentration camp, prisoner of war camp, prison, labor camp, or transit camp?

Check “Yes” for any of these questions if 1) you were ever involved with either the Nazi government of Germany or any government associated with the Nazi government, or 2) you participated in Nazi-sponsored activities.

C. Continuous Residence

13: Since becoming a lawful permanent resident of the U.S., have you ever called yourself a “nonresident” on a Federal, State, or local tax return?

Check “Yes” if you identified yourself as a “non-resident” on any tax form since you became a permanent resident.

14: Since becoming a lawful permanent resident of the U.S., have you ever failed to file a Federal, State, or local tax return because you considered yourself to be a “nonresident”?

Check “Yes” if, at any time during your permanent residence, you did not file a required tax return because you thought you were a “nonresident”.

D. Good Moral Character.

The instructions for this set of questions state: For purposes of this application, you must answer “Yes” to the following questions, if applicable, even if your records were sealed or otherwise cleared or if anyone, including a judge, law enforcement officer, or attorney, told you that you no longer have a record.

To that, we add: If you answer “yes” – or even think you should answer “yes” – to any of the following questions, you should consult with a reputable immigration attorney with criminal law experience before filing your N-400. Incorrect or incomplete analysis of a crime or offense on your record may result in the denial of your application, or worse. A good immigration attorney will obtain your arrest and court records, review all available and relevant information, explain what to expect if you apply, and help you decide whether you should apply at all.

15: Have you ever committed a crime or offense for which you were not arrested?

Check “Yes” if you committed any crime or offense but were not arrested.

16: Have you ever been arrested, cited, or detained by any law enforcement officer (including USCIS or former INS and military officers) for any reason?

Check “Yes” if you were ever arrested, cited, or detained by a law enforcement officer. Not every arrest, citation, and detention will turn out to be a problem, but they should all be investigated by an immigration lawyer before you file your N-400. Note that you must include traffic tickets as they are citations. And do not try to hide anything – CIS is likely to have information about all your arrests, citations, detentions, convictions, etc.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>17: Have you ever been charged with committing any crime or offense?</td>
<td>Check “Yes” if the government ever officially accused you of breaking the law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18: Have you ever been convicted of a crime or offense?</td>
<td>Check “Yes” if 1) a judge or government agency determined that you broke the law, or 2) you admitted that you broke the law.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19: Have you ever been placed in an alternative sentencing or a rehabilitative program (for example: diversion, deferred prosecution, withheld adjudication, deferred adjudication)?</td>
<td>Check “Yes” if you were charged with a crime or offense, but the judge let you avoid a conviction as long as you stayed out of trouble or participated in a special program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20: Have you ever received a suspended sentence, been placed on probation, or been paroled?</td>
<td>Check “Yes” if you received a suspended sentence, were placed on probation, or were paroled (instead of either serving a full jail/prison sentence or having to go to jail/prison at all).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21: Have you ever been in jail or prison?</td>
<td>Check “Yes” if you ever served any time in jail or prison.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-21: If you answered “Yes” to any of Questions 15 through 21, complete the following table. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper to give the same information.</td>
<td>Use the chart following Question 21 to provide details to any arrests, citations, detentions, charges, and/or convictions. You should be as accurate and complete as possible. Do not guess at the answers – certain details about crimes and offenses may mean the difference between becoming a citizen and being deported. Again, you should speak with an experienced immigration attorney if you have any crimes or offenses on your record.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22a: Have you ever been a habitual drunkard?</td>
<td>Check “Yes” if you have or ever had a substance abuse problem such as alcoholism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22b: Been a prostitute, or procured anyone for prostitution?</td>
<td>Check “Yes” if you ever sold sex for money or were ever involved with a sex-for-money operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22c: Sold or smuggled controlled substances, illegal drugs, or narcotics?</td>
<td>Check “Yes” if you were ever involved with the illegal sale or transport of drugs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22d: Been married to more than one person at the same time?</td>
<td>Check “Yes” if you ever had more than one husband or wife at the same time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22e: Helped anyone enter or try to enter the U.S. illegally?</td>
<td>Check “Yes” if you ever helped or tried to help someone come into the U.S. without permission.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22f: Gambled illegally or received income from illegal gambling?</td>
<td>Check “Yes” if you ever made money from or were ever involved with an illegal gambling operation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22g: Failed to support your dependents or to pay alimony?</td>
<td>Check “Yes” if you forgot or refused to support someone who is dependent on you (for example, your minor children) or you ignored a court order to support a former spouse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23: Have you ever given false or misleading information to any U.S. Government official while</td>
<td>Check “Yes” if you ever lied to a government official (such as a U.S. consulate officer or a CIS officer) in order to get a visa, a green card, or some other benefit. Also check “Yes” if you ever lied to a government official (such as a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent or an</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
applying for any immigration benefit or to prevent deportation, exclusion, or removal?

24: Have you ever lied to any U.S. Government official to gain entry or admission into the U.S.?

Check “Yes” if you ever lied to a government official (such as a Border Patrol agent) in order to be allowed into the U.S. If you answer “yes”, get help from an immigration lawyer.

E. Removal, Exclusion, and Deportation Proceedings.

25: Are removal, exclusion, rescission, or deportation proceedings pending against you?

Check “Yes” if you now have a case in immigration court or have been ordered to go to immigration court.

26: Have you ever been removed, excluded, or deported from the U.S.?

Check “Yes” if the government has ever kept you from entering the U.S. or returned you to your home country or another nation.

27: Have you ever been ordered to be removed, excluded, or deported from the U.S.?

Check “Yes” if the government has ever told you that you could not enter the U.S. or that you had to leave the U.S.

28: Have you ever applied for any kind of relief from removal, exclusion, or deportation?

Check “Yes” if you have ever asked the government to allow you to stay in the U.S. when it was trying to either stop you from entering the U.S. or force you to leave the U.S.

F. Military Service.

29: Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?

Check “Yes” if you were ever in the U.S. military (for example, the U.S. Army).

30: Have you ever left the U.S. to avoid being drafted into the U.S. Armed Forces?

Check “Yes” if you left the U.S. so you would not have to serve in the U.S. military.

31: Have you ever applied for any kind of exemption from military service in the U.S. Armed Forces?

Check “Yes” if you ever asked to be excused from serving in the U.S. military.

32: Have you ever deserted from the U.S. Armed Forces?

Check “Yes” if, while you were serving in the U.S. military, you left without permission.

G. Selective Service Registration.

33: Are you a male who lived in the U.S. at any time between your 18th and 26th birthdays in any status except as lawful nonimmigrant?

If you answered “No”, go on to question 34.

Check “Yes” if 1) you are a male, and 2) you lived in the U.S. at any time from your 18th birthday up to your 26th birthday, and 3) you were a U.S. citizen, a permanent resident, or undocumented at any time during this period.

If you meet all 3 of these requirements, you must be registered with Selective Service, the military draft. Among those who do not have to register are females and “non-immigrants” such as tourists and foreign students. Contact the Selective Service System (SSS) for more information: (847)688-6888 or www.SSS.gov.

If you answered “No” to this question, leave the rest of this section blank and skip ahead to Question 34.
If you answered “Yes”, provide the information below.

If you answered “Yes” to this question and you registered with Selective Service, you will need to provide the date of your registration and your Selective Service Number in the appropriate boxes. You can get this information at www.SSS.gov or by calling (847)688-6888.

If you answered “Yes”, but you did not register with the Selective Service System and are still under 26 years of age, you must register before you apply for naturalization, so that you can complete the information below: (Date Registered and Selective Service Number).

If you answered “Yes” to this question but have not registered and have not reached your 26th birthday, register immediately by visiting the SSS website at www.SSS.gov or by filing a registration form available at all U.S. Post Offices. When you receive your registration confirmation from SSS, enter your registration date and number in the boxes.

If you answered “Yes”, but you did not register with the Selective Service and you are now 26 years old or older, attach a statement explaining why you did not register.

If you answered “Yes” to this question but did not register and you are now 26 years old or older, you are no longer allowed to register. In this situation, if you still wish to become a U.S. citizen, you may need to obtain a “Status Information Letter” from SSS. You would also have to convince CIS that 1) you did not register because you did not know you were required to do so and 2) you would have done so otherwise. In this situation, you should get help from an immigration professional.

H. Oath Requirements

34: Do you support the Constitution and form of government of the U.S.?
Check “Yes” if you are willing to defend and protect the U.S. Constitution (the supreme law of America) and our democracy.

35: Do you understand the full Oath of Allegiance to the U.S.?
Check “Yes” if you understand what the Oath of Allegiance means. The Oath of Allegiance is printed at the bottom of page 10 of the N-400.

36: Are you willing to take the full Oath of Allegiance to the U.S.?
Check “Yes” if you agree to say the Oath of Allegiance (as written) at your naturalization ceremony in order to become a U.S. citizen.

37: If the law requires it, are you willing to bear arms on behalf of the U.S.?
Check “Yes” if you agree to join the military and go to war if the government says you must. If you answer “No”, you may still be able to naturalize, but you will have to explain why you are not willing to “bear arms”. Generally, if you belong to a religion that believes that war violates its basic tenets, you may be able to answer “No” and still be eligible for citizenship.

38: If the law requires it, are you willing to perform noncombatant services in the U.S. Armed Forces?
Check “Yes” if you agree to join the military and serve in a support function (rather than go to war) if the government requires you to do so.

39: If the law requires it, are you willing to perform work of national importance under civilian direction?
Check “Yes” if you agree to serve the U.S. or your community during emergencies and times of crisis.

Part 11: Your Signature

Your Signature
Sign your name in this box. If you are physically unable to sign your name, you may put an “X” here.

Date
Write the date you signed the N-400.
Part 12: Signature of Person Who Prepared This Application for You

If you completed the N-400 yourself, skip Part 12. If someone else completed the form for you, include the following information.

Preparer’s Printed Name
The person who completed this form for you (“preparer”) prints his/her name here.

Preparer’s Signature
The preparer signs his/her name.

Date
The preparer writes the date.

Preparer’s Firm or Organization Name
The preparer prints the name of the business or organization he/she works for (if any).

Preparer’s Daytime Phone Number
The preparer writes his/her daytime phone number.

Preparer’s Address
The preparer prints his/her firm’s or organization’s address in these boxes (if applicable).

Part 13: Signature at Interview

Leave this entire part blank. At your interview, a CIS officer will help you complete it.

Part 14: Oath of Allegiance

Leave this entire part blank. At your interview, a CIS officer will help you complete it.

6. Filing Your N-400

Application Package

Once you have completed your N-400 Application for Naturalization, review it to make sure all the answers are complete, accurate, and easy to read. If you did not hire an immigration attorney to help you, you should at least have someone from a reputable nonprofit immigration services agency look over the form and correct any errors. Do not file your application unless and until you are sure it is properly completed.

Next, you will need to prepare your application for filing. Here are the documents and other things you will need to include for your “application package”:

1. Your N-400

2. A copy of your Permanent Resident Card (also known as a “green card”), both the front and the back.

3. Two passport-style photos of yourself. Print your name and A-number lightly on the back of each. Place them in a small envelope so they don’t get lost. See the “Photos” section below for more information about photo requirements.

4. The application fees as follows:
   a. Applicants under 75 years of age: $675. (This includes the $595 filing fee and the $80 biometrics fee.)
   b. Applicants 75 and older: $595. (No $80 biometrics fee is required.)
c. Some applicants who are serving or have served in the U.S. military may be allowed to file for free. Check with the CIS National Customer Service Center at (800)375-5283 for more information.

You may pay by personal check or money order, payable to “U.S. Department of Homeland Security”. Do not send cash. Print your name, A-number, and “N-400” on the check or money order.

Can’t afford the fee? If you are unable to pay the fee, you may request a fee waiver which, if approved by CIS, would allow you to file your N-400 at no charge. In order to qualify for a waiver, you will need to describe and provide evidence of your overall financial situation, including: your living arrangements, disabilities you have, your income, public benefits you receive, support you get from family members, your assets, your expenses, your debts, etc. There is no official form to request a fee waiver, so if you are interested in applying for one, you should seek the assistance of a qualified nonprofit immigration services organization.

5. Any additional pages you used to complete and/or explain your answers.

6. A copy of any supporting documentation for specific situations. For example, if you are applying for naturalization after only 3 years of permanent residence because you are married to a U.S. citizen, you should include a copy of your marriage certificate (showing you have been married to your U.S. citizen spouse for at least 3 years) and a copy of his/her naturalization certificate (showing that he/she has been a U.S. citizen for at least 3 years). Do not send originals.

Once you have assembled everything, make a copy of the N-400 and the documents for your own records. Keep this copy in a safe place in case you need to review it.

Now clip your original N-400, green card copy, photos, check or money order, etc., together – this is your official application package. Insert it into an envelope for mailing. You do not need a cover letter, but are welcome to include one if it helps to clarify any issues that require explanation.

Photos

You will need to include two identical passport-style photos of yourself with your application package. The photos must:

- Be unmounted and printed on thin paper
- Be in color with a plain white or off-white background
- Be recent (taken within past 30 days)
- Measure 2” x 2”
- Show your face looking forward (toward the camera)
- Show your head without any covering, unless you are required by your religious beliefs to wear a head covering
- Show your full head from top of hair to bottom of chin; height of head should measure 1” to 1-3/8” (25 mm to 35 mm)
- Set eye height 1-1/8” to 1-3/8” (28 mm and 35 mm) from bottom of photo
- Have no distracting or unnatural shadows caused by uneven lighting
- Show you with a natural expression on your face

Where and How to Send Your Application Package

Address your application package envelope as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you live in:</th>
<th>Send your N-400 application package by regular mail to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
P.O. Box 21251  
Phoenix, AZ 85036  
or by express/courier service to:  
USCIS  
Attn: N-400  
1820 E. Skyharbor Cir. S, Ste. 100  
Phoenix, AZ 85034 |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If you live in:</th>
<th>Send your N-400 application package by regular mail to:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
P.O. Box 660060  
Dallas, TX 75266  
or by express/courier service to:  
USCIS  
Attn: N-400  
2501 S. State Hwy. 121 Business, Ste. 400  
Lewisville, TX 75067 |

Again, as information changes from time to time, you should confirm the mailing address by checking the CIS website at [www.USCIS.gov](http://www.USCIS.gov) or by calling the CIS National Customer Service Center at (800)375-5283.
If you send your application package by regular mail, use “certified mail” and “return receipt” so you have evidence of both the date you sent it as well as the date CIS received it. This information may be important if your application is misplaced or you encounter delays in application processing.

7. After Your N-400 is Filed

You can use the Application Tracker (Appendix H) to record the progress of your N-400. After you’ve sent in your N-400 application package, you will receive a receipt by mail from CIS. Keep this receipt with your N-400 copy in a safe place since it is your proof that CIS received your application and fees.

If you ever need to meet with CIS regarding your application, bring your copy of the N-400 application package along with notices you received from them and copies of letters you sent to them. These documents contain important information CIS may need to find and review your case. After your meeting, write down the date you met with the CIS officer, his/her name, and the information given to you.

Before you are scheduled for your naturalization interview, as your application is being processed at CIS, take some time to do the following:

- **Review your N-400.** Remember we suggested you make a copy of your naturalization application before you filed it? Using that copy, you can review the information you provided. This will help you answer questions your CIS examiner is likely to ask you at your interview. It’s usually OK if you can’t remember everything, but the interview will go better if you have your answers ready and you appear confident.

- **Collect documents.** CIS may send you a list of additional documents and information for you to bring to your interview. Do your best to obtain them. If you do not, the examiner may not be able to make a decision on your case and your application could be delayed.

- **Study civics.** You must be able to pass an examination on U.S. government and history. Make sure you can answer all the questions from the exam, which is included in Appendix C: “Naturalization Examination: U.S. Government and History”.

- **Practice your English.** More applicants fail the interview due to weak English skills than for any other reason. You must be able to speak enough English to answer the questions your examiner asks. You must also know the vocabulary found in Appendixes D and E. If you are having trouble with the language, practice as much as you can. Ask your family, your friends, your co-workers, your neighbors, and anyone else you can think of to help you. Enroll in an English course at a local adult school. Use educational materials available from your community library and CIS (see Appendix G). Remember, you need to be able to understand, speak, read, and write English – practice all of these!
8. Address Change? Notify CIS!

If you move to a new address at any time during the application process, you must notify CIS within the 10 days after you move. It’s the law. You should do both of the following:

1. Complete and file a Form AR-11, “Alien’s Change of Address Card”. You can obtain this form from the CIS website if you have Internet access: www.USCIS.gov > “Forms” > “All Forms” > “Change of Address” (Form AR-11) > “Download AR-11”

   Follow the instructions on the form to complete it, then mail it in. There is no fee to file the AR-11.

   Alternatively, you may file the form on-line. Go to www.USCIS.gov and click on the link labeled “Change of Address”.

2. Contact the CIS National Customer Service Center at (800)375-5283. After listening to a couple of recorded messages, you will be able to speak to a customer service representative who will update your address information immediately.

9. Fingerprints (“Biometrics”)

If you are under 75 years of age when you file your N-400, you will need to have your fingerprints taken by CIS as part of the naturalization application process. This step, also known as “biometrics”, enables the government to collect records and information about you from various law enforcement agencies.

CIS will automatically schedule you to have your fingerprints taken at an Application Support Center (ASC) near you. You will receive a notice from CIS showing the date of your appointment, the address of the ASC, the documents you should bring, and other helpful information. If you cannot appear on the requested date due to a family emergency or other issue, you may request to have the appointment rescheduled; the instructions for doing so will be in your appointment notice.

Applicants 75 years of age or older at the time of application filing will not have their fingerprints taken, so will not receive an appointment notice.

10. Your Naturalization Interview

For many naturalization applicants, the most challenging step is the interview. It’s here that they meet CIS “up close and personal”. They may have heard stories about unfriendly CIS officers, difficult examinations, and other problems. However, we believe that if you have met all the requirements for naturalization, completed your N-400 neatly and accurately, studied for the English and civics tests, and reviewed your application, your interview will be a positive experience.

Why does CIS even have an interview with applicants? CIS’s job is to make sure that everyone who applies to naturalize is qualified for citizenship. The applicant’s identity
must be confirmed; information in his/her application must be reviewed and verified; the applicant must show basic proficiency in English; and he/she needs to demonstrate knowledge of U.S. government and history. The most efficient and effective way for CIS to accomplish this is to meet directly with the applicant – in this case, you.

Although examiners may have different ways of conducting interviews, the interviews largely cover the same areas. Your examiner will review your application and ask you questions to see if your answers are complete and accurate. He/she may ask questions about specific information from your N-400 or other records. Along the way, the examiner will be checking to see that you can understand and speak English. He/she will further test your English skills by giving you sentences to read and write, and will test your knowledge of U.S. civics by asking you questions about American government and history.

The Citizenship 101 video includes a sample interview to give you an idea of how your interview might proceed. Remember that different officers have different ways of interviewing applicants, so do not assume that the sample interview is the only way it can be done.

Because this is perhaps the most difficult part of the naturalization process, we have a few tips to help you prepare for the interview and give you the confidence to perform your best.

- **Dress neatly.** You will create a better impression of yourself if you wear clothes that show you are serious about the interview and becoming a U.S. citizen.
- **Answer only questions that the examiner asks you.** You do not need to offer additional information, unless you need to clarify your answer.
- **Be honest.** CIS officers are trained to sense when applicants are not being truthful. Also, they have records and information about you from other government offices. So if you say anything that conflicts with what your examiner knows, he/she may deny your application simply because you are lying or hiding information.
- **Understand the examiner’s questions before you answer.** You must know what the examiner is asking before you can give him/her the correct response. If you did not hear or understand the examiner’s question, ask him/her to repeat it or say it in a different way.
- **Talk to a supervisor.** If you feel that your examiner is being rude or unfair, you should ask to speak to his/her supervisor. You are a customer of CIS, and you deserve to be treated with respect. The examiner should arrange for you to meet with a supervisor immediately so you can explain the difficulty and perhaps be interviewed by another officer.

**Civics and English Examinations**

The civics (U.S. government and history) and English examinations will be given to you at your interview. The civics part will consist of 10 questions, of which you must correctly answer at least 6 to pass. The questions will come from a list of 100; the list is provided in Appendix C: “Naturalization Exam: U.S. Government and History”. Since
we do not know which questions will be selected from that list for your exam, it’s best to study all of them. For more information, see Appendix C.

Your English skills will be tested in different ways. As we said earlier, your ability to understand and speak English will be judged during your interview. Therefore, it is important that you review your application before then. That way, you will be familiar with the words used in the interview and you will be more comfortable answering the examiner’s questions and following his/her instructions.

To prepare for the English reading and writing examinations, you should practice reading and writing the words in the lists in Appendix D: “Naturalization Exam: English Reading Vocabulary” and Appendix E: “Naturalization Exam: English Writing Vocabulary”. If it is difficult for you to learn the words, you may find it helpful to practice just 5-10 words per week until you know all of them. You can also study the vocabulary lists as they are presented in the Citizenship 101 video; you will be able to both see and hear the words.

Name Change

During the interview, you will be given a form that shows your name as it will appear on your Certificate of Naturalization if you are approved for citizenship. Take time to make sure your name is spelled right, especially if you are changing it. If it’s wrong, your certificate will not have your legal name and you will have to ask CIS to correct it.

Interview Results

At the end of the interview, you will be told whether you passed or failed. If you pass, you will be scheduled for an upcoming Oath of Allegiance ceremony where you will join other naturalization applicants to recite the oath in front of a judge. In some CIS offices, your examiner may be able to immediately find out when your ceremony is scheduled, although in most cases you will be sent a letter with the ceremony information by mail. Remember, you are not a U.S. citizen until you take the oath at the ceremony; do not register to vote until you have done so.

If you do not pass the interview, the examiner will explain why. Your case may be “continued” (to be completed at a later time), which means you may be instructed to either send in more information in support of your application or return for a second interview.

If your application is denied, you may be able to “appeal” (challenge) the decision. To do so, you will need to complete Form N-336 “Request for a Hearing on a Decision in Naturalization Proceedings” and pay a $605 fee. If, on the other hand, you accept the denial, you may be able to re-apply for naturalization right away, but before doing so, you should 1) understand why you did not pass the first time and 2) correct that problem. Only when you are fully eligible for citizenship should you file an N-400 again. We urge you to consult with an experienced immigration attorney if you are thinking about appealing a decision or filing another N-400 after a denial.

11. Your Oath of Allegiance Ceremony

The Oath of Allegiance ceremony (or “oath ceremony”) is the final, but most special, part of the naturalization process. You will be seated with dozens or hundreds or even
thousands of other applicants who have successfully passed their interviews and have been approved by CIS for citizenship. There will be speeches and presentations and maybe a video or two. Then, your big moment arrives when a judge directs you to stand, raise your right hand, and repeat the following (which you do not need to memorize):

I hereby declare, on oath

that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;

that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law;

that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law;

that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law;

and that I take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; so help me God.

Congratulations! You are now an American citizen!

You will then be directed to pick up your Certificate of Naturalization. Do not forget this step! The certificate is evidence of your new status as a citizen of the U.S. and you will need it to obtain a passport and for other reasons. Be sure to check the certificate to make sure all the information is correct, including your name and your birth date. If any of the information is incorrect, notify one of the CIS officers there immediately.

This will likely be one of the most memorable moments of your life, so be sure to invite your family and friends to this event. They will want to share in the joy of your accomplishment and the beginning of your new life as an American Citizen!

12. After the Ceremony

Good job! You’ve traveled a long and challenging road to reach the summit of the American immigration experience: U.S. citizenship. It is an achievement of which you and your family should be proud.

Now that you’ve become a citizen, there are a couple more things you may need or want to do:

• **Update your Social Security records.** Notify the Social Security Administration (SSA) that you have become a U.S. citizen. SSA needs this information to update your employment records. You may do this by visiting your local SSA office with an identification document (such as your driver’s license) and your naturalization certificate.
• **Register to vote.** You are not required to register, but you will need to do so if you ever plan to...

• **Vote.** Voting in the U.S. is a hallmark of citizenship. The opportunity to choose the people who represent you in government is a time-honored right and tradition that gives you a voice in America’s future. We urge you to take this right seriously; it is the foundation of our democracy and the source of our freedom.

• **Obtain a passport.** A U.S. passport is proof of your identity and citizenship. You will need one if you wish to travel to other nations as an American citizen. Information on passports is available at [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov).

• **Become involved with your community.** Maybe, as a permanent resident, you helped out at your child’s school or gave money to the local food bank. But now that you’re a citizen and more secure in your future, you’ve decided you want to do more. How? Volunteer! There are endless opportunities for you to get involved with organizations whose work is important to you. You would be welcome by any group that can use your skills, experience, energy, and dedication in service to others and to America.

13. **Good Luck!**

We hope you found *Citizenship 101: Your Guide to Citizenship* helpful in your pursuit of American citizenship. It has been our honor to serve you in this way.

Once you become an American citizen and no longer need the *Citizenship 101* video and workbook, we urge you to recycle and share the knowledge by:

• Passing them along to someone you know who is applying for naturalization
• Giving them to your local library
• Leaving them with an adult school in your area
• Donating them to a nonprofit agency that serves immigrants

*Thank you.*
Appendix A

Glossary

**A-number:** See “Alien Registration Number”.

**Abandon:** To give up.

**Alimony:** Payments made to a former wife or husband as ordered by a court.

**Alien Registration Number:** Identification number assigned by CIS to lawful permanent residents and others. It begins with the letter “A”, followed by 8 or 9 digits. Also known as “A-number”.

**Allegiance:** Loyalty

**Appeal:** To ask for review of a CIS officer’s decision.

**Bear arms:** To carry a gun to fight in a war.

**Biometrics:** Measurements of a body’s physical features, used to identify a particular person. The most common biometric is a fingerprint.

**CIS:** See “U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services”.

**Civics:** U.S. government and history. Civics is one of the examinations a naturalization applicant must pass in order to become a U.S. citizen (the other is the English examination).

**Constitution:** Supreme law of the U.S.

**Continued:** To be completed at a later time.

**Conviction:** A finding by a judge or court that someone broke the law.

**Democracy:** Government by the people.

**Deport:** To force to leave the U.S. because of immigration or criminal violations. The more recent term “remove” means the same thing.

**Detention:** Jail, prison, or other confinement by the government.

**Examiner:** CIS officer who conducts a naturalization interview.

**Expunge:** To erase a crime or offense from someone’s record.

**Follow-up:** To find out about an application you already filed with CIS. You should follow-up with CIS, for example, if you have not been scheduled for an Oath of Allegiance ceremony within 4 months of passing your interview.

**Green card:** See “Permanent resident card”.

**Green card holder:** See “Lawful permanent resident”.

**Jury duty:** Serving in court to help decide whether a person is guilty or innocent.

**Lawful permanent resident:** Immigrant who is allowed to permanently live and work in the U.S., as long as he/she meets the requirements to keep that status. Lawful permanent
residents (also known as “legal permanent residents”, “permanent residents”, and “green card holders”) are issued a permanent resident card.

**Legal permanent resident**: See “Lawful permanent resident”.

**N-400**: Application for Naturalization.

**Naturalize**: To become a U.S. citizen by meeting certain requirements and applying for citizenship.

**Oath of Allegiance**: Promise to be loyal to the United States and to obey its laws.

**Permanent resident**: See “Lawful permanent resident”.

**Permanent resident card**: Identification card provided by the U.S. government showing that the person is a lawful permanent resident. The current version of this card is off-white. This card is also known as a “green card”, because long ago it was the color green.

**Polygamy**: Being married to more than one person at the same time.

**Prostitution**: Sex for money.

**Remove**: See “Deport”.

**Spouse**: Husband or wife.

**Three-year (3-year) rule**: Law that allows some people to apply for naturalization after 3 years of permanent residence rather than waiting the normal 5 years. Specifically, you can meet the permanent residence time requirement in only 3 years if you 1) are married to a U.S. citizen, have been married to him/her for at least 3 years, and he/she has been a U.S. citizen for at least 3 years, or 2) you obtained permanent residence as a survivor of domestic violence by your U.S. citizen spouse or parent.

**Totalitarianism**: Political system in which the government controls everything.

**USCIS**: See “U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services”.

**U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services**: Government agency in charge of naturalizing immigrants and other immigration-related matters. Also known as “CIS” and “USCIS”.

**Waiver**: Permission to be excused from meeting a requirement.
Appendix B

N-400 Application for Naturalization (sample)

Here is a sample N-400 Application for Naturalization. The applicant and information were entirely made-up to help you understand how the application can be completed.

Remember, you can get a new, clean N-400 for yourself at no charge. See page 14 for more information.
### Part 3. Information About You

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. U.S. Social Security Number</td>
<td>B. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)</td>
<td>C. Date You Became a Permanent Resident (mm/dd/yyyy)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>111-11-1111</td>
<td>01/12/1973</td>
<td>09/22/1998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Country of Birth</td>
<td>E. Country of Nationality</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MALAYSIA</td>
<td>CANADA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Are either of your parents U.S. citizens? (If yes, see instructions)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. What is your current marital status?</td>
<td>Single, Never Married</td>
<td>Married</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Are you requesting a waiver of the English and/or U.S. History and Government requirements based on a disability or impairment and attaching Form N-648 with your application?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Are you requesting an accommodation to the naturalization process because of a disability or impairment? (See instructions for some examples of accommodations.)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you answered “Yes,” check the box below that applies:

- ☐ I am deaf or hearing impaired and need a sign language interpreter who uses the following language: ____________________________
- ☑ I use a wheelchair.
- ☐ I am blind or sight impaired.
- ☐ I will need another type of accommodation. Explain: __________________________________________________________

### Part 4. Addresses and Telephone Numbers

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Home Address - Street Number and Name (Do not write a P.O. Box in this space.)</td>
<td>Apartment Number</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1144 WILSHIRE BLVD.</td>
<td>#200</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>County</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>ZIP Code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOS ANGELES</td>
<td>LOS ANGELES</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>90017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Care of Mailing Address - Street Number and Name (If different from home address)</td>
<td>Apartment Number</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(N/A)</td>
<td>P.O. BOX 000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City</td>
<td>State</td>
<td>ZIP Code</td>
<td>Country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOS ANGELES</td>
<td>CA</td>
<td>90017</td>
<td>U.S.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Daytime Phone Number (If any)</td>
<td>Evening Phone Number (If any)</td>
<td>E-Mail Address (If any)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(213) 555-1212</td>
<td>(213) 555-2121</td>
<td>(NONE)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part 5. Information for Criminal Records Search

NOTE: The categories below are those required by the FBI. See instructions for more information.

A. Gender
   ☒ Male  ☐ Female

B. Height  5 Feet 9 Inches
C. Weight  152 Pounds

D. Are you Hispanic or Latino?  ☐ Yes  ☒ No

E. Race (Select one or more)
   ☐ White  ☒ Asian  ☐ Black or African American
   ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native  ☐ Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

F. Hair color
   ☒ Black  ☐ Brown  ☐ Blonde  ☐ Gray  ☐ White  ☐ Red  ☐ Sandy  ☐ Bald (No Hair)

G. Eye color
   ☒ Brown  ☐ Blue  ☐ Green  ☐ Hazel  ☐ Gray  ☐ Black  ☐ Pnk  ☐ Maroon  ☐ Other

Part 6. Information About Your Residence and Employment

A. Where have you lived during the last five years? Begin with where you live now and then list every place you lived for the last five years. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street Number and Name, Apartment Number, City, State, Zip Code, and Country</th>
<th>Dates (mm/dd/yyyy)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Home Address - Same as Part 4.A</td>
<td>From</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54 CANAVER CT., SAN FRANCISCO, CA, 94111, U.S.</td>
<td>04/03/2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1192 SALMON DR., #904, CHICAGO, IL, 60640, U.S.</td>
<td>01/15/2007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2322 DOTS AVE., #1200, NW, WASHINGTON, DC, 20036, U.S.</td>
<td>05/28/2006</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Where have you worked (or, if you were a student, what schools did you attend) during the last five years? Include military service. Begin with your current or latest employer and then list every place you have worked or studied for the last five years. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Employer or School Name</th>
<th>Employer or School Address (Street, City, and State)</th>
<th>Dates (mm/dd/yyyy)</th>
<th>Your Occupation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BEATNIK INDUSTRIES</td>
<td>1146 WILSHIRE BLVD., 6TH FL, LOS ANGELES, CA 90017</td>
<td>04/03/2008</td>
<td>PRINCIPAL DESIGNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZEROSUM GRAPHICS</td>
<td>56 COLUMBUS AVE., SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111</td>
<td>01/15/2007</td>
<td>ASSOCIATE DESIGNER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WISENTHORPE, INC.</td>
<td>4754 N. BROADWAY, CHICAGO, IL 60640</td>
<td>06/01/2006</td>
<td>ARCHITECT II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(NONE)</td>
<td>(N/A)</td>
<td>05/15/2006</td>
<td>UNEMPLOYED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAPITOL COLLEGE OF THE ARTS</td>
<td>1141 CONNECTICUT AVE., NW WASHINGTON, DC 20036</td>
<td>09/06/2004</td>
<td>STUDENT</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Part 7. Time Outside the United States**

*(Including Trips to Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean Islands)*

Write your USCIS A-Number here:  
A 012 345 678

A. How many total days did you spend outside of the United States during the past five years?  
196 days

B. How many trips of 24 hours or more have you taken outside of the United States during the past five years?  
2 trips

C. List below all the trips of 24 hours or more that you have taken outside of the United States since becoming a lawful permanent resident. Begin with your most recent trip. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date You Left the United States (mm/dd/yyyy)</th>
<th>Date You Returned to the United States (mm/dd/yyyy)</th>
<th>Did Trip Last Six Months or More?</th>
<th>Countries to Which You Traveled</th>
<th>Total Days Out of the United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>02/13/2008</td>
<td>02/26/2008</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☒ No</td>
<td>CANADA</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07/19/2007</td>
<td>01/18/2008</td>
<td>☒ Yes ☐ No</td>
<td>MALAYSIA, VIETNAM, THAILAND</td>
<td>183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/23/2003</td>
<td>10/11/2003</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☒ No</td>
<td>NEW ZEALAND</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/03/2000</td>
<td>10/06/2000</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☒ No</td>
<td>MEXICO</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05/17/1999</td>
<td>05/21/1999</td>
<td>☐ Yes ☒ No</td>
<td>MEXICO</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Part 8. Information About Your Marital History**

A. How many times have you been married (including annulled marriages)?  
1 If you have never been married, go to Part 9.

B. If you are now married, give the following information about your spouse:

1. Spouse's Family Name (Last Name)  | Given Name (First Name)  | Full Middle Name (If applicable)
---|---|---
DO | JANE | THI

2. Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)  
06/04/1975

3. Date of Marriage (mm/dd/yyyy)  
09/22/2004

4. Spouse's U.S. Social Security #  
222-22-2222

5. Home Address - Street Number and Name  
1144 WILSHIRE BLVD.

Apartment Number  
#200

City  
LOS ANGELES

State  
CA

Zip Code  
90017
Part 8. Information About Your Marital History (Continued)

C. Is your spouse a U.S. citizen?  ☑ Yes  ☐ No

D. If your spouse is a U.S. citizen, give the following information:

1. When did your spouse become a U.S. citizen?  ☐ At Birth  ☑ Other
   If "Other," give the following information:

2. Date your spouse became a U.S. citizen  08/21/1994

3. Place your spouse became a U.S. citizen (See instructions)
   FAIRFAX, VA

   City and State

E. If your spouse is not a U.S. citizen, give the following information:

1. Spouse's Country of Citizenship

2. Spouse's USCIS A-Number (If applicable)
   A

3. Spouse's Immigration Status
   ☐ Lawful Permanent Resident  ☐ Other

F. If you were married before, provide the following information about your prior spouse. If you have more than one previous marriage, use a separate sheet of paper to provide the information requested in Questions 1-5 below.

1. Prior Spouse's Family Name (Last Name)  
   Given Name (First Name)  

2. Prior Spouse's Immigration Status
   ☐ U.S. Citizen  ☐ Lawful Permanent Resident  ☐ Other

3. Date of Marriage (mm/dd/yyyy)

4. Date Marriage Ended (mm/dd/yyyy)

5. How Marriage Ended
   ☐ Divorce  ☑ Spouse Died  ☐ Other

G. How many times has your current spouse been married (including annulled marriages)?  2

If your spouse has ever been married before, give the following information about your spouse's prior marriage.
If your spouse has more than one previous marriage, use a separate sheet(s) of paper to provide the information requested in Questions 1 - 5 below.

1. Prior Spouse's Family Name (Last Name)  
   Given Name (First Name)  

2. Prior Spouse's Immigration Status

3. Date of Marriage (mm/dd/yyyy)
   11/14/1999

4. Date Marriage Ended (mm/dd/yyyy)
   03/02/2001

5. How Marriage Ended
   ☐ Divorce  ☑ Spouse Died  ☐ Other
### Part 9. Information About Your Children

A. How many sons and daughters have you had? For more information on which sons and daughters you should include and how to complete this section, see the Instructions.  

B. Provide the following information about all of your sons and daughters. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full Name of Son or Daughter</th>
<th>Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy)</th>
<th>USCIS A-number of child (if applicable)</th>
<th>Country of Birth</th>
<th>Current Address (Street, City, State and Country)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BRIANNE THI DO</td>
<td>01/12/2006</td>
<td>A (U.S. CITIZEN)</td>
<td>U.S.</td>
<td>WITH ME</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Add Children  
Go to continuation page

### Part 10. Additional Questions

Answer Questions 1 through 14. If you answer "Yes" to any of these questions, include a written explanation with this form. Your written explanation should (1) explain why your answer was "Yes" and (2) provide any additional information that helps to explain your answer.

#### A. General Questions.

1. Have you ever claimed to be a U.S. citizen (in writing or any other way)?  
   - Yes  
   - No

2. Have you ever registered to vote in any Federal, State, or local election in the United States?  
   - Yes  
   - No

3. Have you ever voted in any Federal, State, or local election in the United States?  
   - Yes  
   - No

4. Since becoming a lawful permanent resident, have you ever failed to file a required Federal, State, or local tax return?  
   - Yes  
   - No

5. Do you owe any Federal, State, or local taxes that are overdue?  
   - Yes  
   - No

6. Do you have any title of nobility in any foreign country?  
   - Yes  
   - No

7. Have you ever been declared legally incompetent or been confined to a mental institution within the last five years?  
   - Yes  
   - No
**Part 10. Additional Questions (Continued)**

**B. Affiliations.**

8. a. Have you ever been a member of or associated with any organization, association, fund foundation, party, club, society, or similar group in the United States or in any other place? □ Yes □ No

b. If you answered "Yes," list the name of each group below. If you need more space, attach the names of the other group(s) on a separate sheet of paper.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Group</th>
<th>Name of Group</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. ENGINEER SOCIETY OF AMERICA</td>
<td>6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. BIG BROTHERS</td>
<td>8.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>9.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>10.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9. Have you ever been a member of or in any way associated (either directly or indirectly) with:

   a. The Communist Party? □ Yes □ No
   b. Any other totalitarian party? □ Yes □ No
   c. A terrorist organization? □ Yes □ No

10. Have you ever advocated (either directly or indirectly) the overthrow of any government by force or violence? □ Yes □ No

11. Have you ever persecuted (either directly or indirectly) any person because of race, religion, national origin, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion? □ Yes □ No

12. Between March 23, 1933, and May 8, 1945, did you work for or associate in any way (either directly or indirectly) with:

   a. The Nazi government of Germany? □ Yes □ No
   b. Any government in any area (1) occupied by, (2) allied with, or (3) established with the help of the Nazi government of Germany? □ Yes □ No
   c. Any German, Nazi, or S.S. military unit, paramilitary unit, self-defense unit, vigilante unit, citizen unit, police unit, government agency or office, extermination camp, concentration camp, prisoner of war camp, prison, labor camp, or transit camp? □ Yes □ No

**C. Continuous Residence.**

Since becoming a lawful permanent resident of the United States:

13. Have you ever called yourself a "nonresident" on a Federal, State, or local tax return? □ Yes □ No

14. Have you ever failed to file a Federal, State, or local tax return because you considered yourself to be a "nonresident"? □ Yes □ No
Part 10. Additional Questions (continued)

Write your USCIS A-Number here:
A 012 345 678

D. Good Moral Character.

For the purposes of this application, you must answer "Yes" to the following questions, if applicable, even if your records were sealed or otherwise cleared or if anyone, including a judge, law enforcement officer, or attorney, told you that you no longer have a record.

15. Have you ever committed a crime or offense for which you were not arrested? ☐ Yes ☒ No

16. Have you ever been arrested, cited, or detained by any law enforcement officer (including USCIS or former INS and military officers) for any reason? ☒ Yes ☐ No

17. Have you ever been charged with committing any crime or offense? ☒ Yes ☐ No

18. Have you ever been convicted of a crime or offense? ☒ Yes ☐ No

19. Have you ever been placed in an alternative sentencing or a rehabilitative program (for example: diversion, deferred prosecution, withheld adjudication, deferred adjudication)? ☒ Yes ☐ No

20. Have you ever received a suspended sentence, been placed on probation, or been paroled? ☐ Yes ☒ No

21. Have you ever been in jail or prison? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If you answered "Yes" to any of Questions 15 through 21, complete the following table. If you need more space, use a separate sheet of paper to give the same information.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Why were you arrested, cited, detained, or charged?</th>
<th>Date arrested, cited, detained, or charged? (mm/dd/yyyy)</th>
<th>Where were you arrested, cited, detained, or charged? (City, State, Country)</th>
<th>Outcome or disposition of the arrest, citation, detention, or charge (No charges filed, charges dismissed, jail, probation, etc.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DRIVING: SPEEDING</td>
<td>11/16/2008</td>
<td>LONG BEACH, CA</td>
<td>PAID FINE, TRAFFIC SCHOOL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DRIVING: ILLEGAL TURN</td>
<td>07/02/2005</td>
<td>BALTIMORE, MD</td>
<td>PAID FINE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answer Questions 22 through 33. If you answer "Yes" to any of these questions, attach (1) your written explanation why your answer was "Yes" and (2) any additional information or documentation that helps explain your answer.

22. Have you ever:
   a. Been a habitual drunkard? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   b. Been a prostitute, or procured anyone for prostitution? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   c. Sold or smuggled controlled substances, illegal drugs, or narcotics? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   d. Been married to more than one person at the same time? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   e. Helped anyone enter or try to enter the United States illegally? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   f. Gambled illegally or received income from illegal gambling? ☐ Yes ☒ No
   g. Failed to support your dependents or to pay alimony? ☐ Yes ☒ No

23. Have you ever given false or misleading information to any U.S. Government official while applying for any immigration benefit or to prevent deportation, exclusion, or removal? ☐ Yes ☒ No

24. Have you ever lied to any U.S. Government official to gain entry or admission into the United States? ☐ Yes ☒ No
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part 10. Additional Questions (Continued)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

E. Removal, Exclusion, and Deportation Proceedings.

25. Are removal, exclusion, rescission, or deportation proceedings pending against you?  [ ] Yes  [x] No

26. Have you ever been removed, excluded, or deported from the United States?  [ ] Yes  [x] No

27. Have you ever been ordered to be removed, excluded, or deported from the United States?  [ ] Yes  [x] No

28. Have you ever applied for any kind of relief from removal, exclusion, or deportation?  [ ] Yes  [x] No

F. Military Service.

29. Have you ever served in the U.S. Armed Forces?  [ ] Yes  [x] No

30. Have you ever left the United States to avoid being drafted into the U.S. Armed Forces?  [ ] Yes  [x] No

31. Have you ever applied for any kind of exemption from military service in the U.S. Armed Forces?  [ ] Yes  [x] No

32. Have you ever deserted from the U.S. Armed Forces?  [ ] Yes  [x] No

G. Selective Service Registration.

33. Are you a male who lived in the United States at any time between your 18th and 26th birthdays in any status except as a lawful nonimmigrant?  [ ] Yes  [x] No

If you answered "NO," go on to question 34.

If you answered "YES," provide the information below.

If you answered "YES," but you did not register with the Selective Service System and are still under 26 years of age, you must register before you apply for naturalization, so that you can complete the information below:

Date Registered (mm/dd/yyyy)  10/03/1998  Selective Service Number  73-0000000-0

If you answered "YES," but you did not register with the Selective Service and you are now 26 years old or older, attach a statement explaining why you did not register.

H. Oath Requirements. (See Part 14 for the text of the oath)

Answer Questions 34 through 39. If you answer "No" to any of these questions, attach (1) your written explanation why the answer was "No" and (2) any additional information or documentation that helps to explain your answer.

34. Do you support the Constitution and form of government of the United States?  [x] Yes  [ ] No

35. Do you understand the full Oath of Allegiance to the United States?  [x] Yes  [ ] No

36. Are you willing to take the full Oath of Allegiance to the United States?  [x] Yes  [ ] No

37. If the law requires it, are you willing to bear arms on behalf of the United States?  [x] Yes  [ ] No

38. If the law requires it, are you willing to perform noncombatant services in the U.S. Armed Forces?  [x] Yes  [ ] No

39. If the law requires it, are you willing to perform work of national importance under civilian direction?  [x] Yes  [ ] No
Part 11. Your Signature

I certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America, that this application, and the evidence submitted with it, are all true and correct. I authorize the release of any information that the USCIS needs to determine my eligibility for naturalization.

Your Signature  

X  

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)  

X  

Part 12. Signature of Person Who Prepared This Application for You (If applicable)

I declare under penalty of perjury that I prepared this application at the request of the above person. The answers provided are based on information of which I have personal knowledge and/or were provided to me by the above named person in response to the exact questions contained on this form.

Preparer's Printed Name  

(NONE)  

Preparer's Signature  

Preparer's Firm or Organization Name (If applicable)  

Preparer's Daytime Phone Number  

Preparer's Address - Street Number and Name  

City  

State  

Zip Code  

NOTE: Do not complete Parts 13 and 14 until a USCIS Officer instructs you to do so.

Part 13. Signature at Interview

I swear (affirm) and certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that I know that the contents of this application for naturalization subscribed by me, including corrections numbered 1 through _____ and the evidence submitted by me numbered pages 1 through _____, are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Subscribed to and sworn to (affirmed) before me  

Complete Signature of Applicant  

Officer's Printed Name or Stamp  

Date (mm/dd/yyyy)  

Officer's Signature  

Part 14. Oath of Allegiance

If your application is approved, you will be scheduled for a public oath ceremony at which time you will be required to take the following Oath of Allegiance immediately prior to becoming a naturalized citizen. By signing, you acknowledge your willingness and ability to take this oath:

I hereby declare, on oath, that I absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, of whom or which I have heretofore been a subject or citizen;

that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic;

that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same;

that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by the law;

that I will perform noncombatant service in the Armed Forces of the United States when required by the law;

that I will perform work of national importance under civilian direction when required by the law; and

that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, so help me God.

Printed Name of Applicant  

Complete Signature of Applicant  

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Appendix C

Naturalization Exam: U.S. Government and History ("Civics")

To naturalize to U.S. citizenship, you must have a knowledge and understanding of the history, principles, and form of government of the U.S. (also known as “civics”). In order to find out if you meet this requirement, CIS will give you a civics examination at your interview. The examination consists of the 100 questions listed below, which emphasize “the fundamental concepts of American democracy and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship” in order to “encourage citizenship applicants [that's you] to learn and identify with the basic values we all share as Americans.” Your CIS officer will ask you ten (10) of the 100 questions, and you must answer at least six (6) correctly to pass. If you fail the exam, you will be given another one at a second interview at a later date.

The exam questions and answers below are accurate as of October 2009. Answers may occasionally change to reflect changes in our government or for other reasons. You should, therefore, check for updated information by visiting the CIS citizenship exam webpage at www.USCIS.gov/newtest. Correct responses to some of these questions depend on where you live (for example, you may need to do your own research to find the answer to Question 20: Who is one of your state’s U.S. Senators?). Although CIS is aware that there may be additional correct answers to these questions, you are encouraged to respond using the answers provided.

Note that if you are at least 65 years old and have been a permanent resident for at least 20 years on the day you file your N-400, your test will be taken from only the 20 questions marked with an asterisk (*). These questions are: 6, 11, 13, 17, 20, 27, 28, 44, 45, 49, 54, 56, 70, 75, 78, 85, 94, 95, 97, and 99. As with the standard exam, you will be asked 10 of these questions and must get at least 6 correct.

These examination questions are also available from CIS in the following languages: Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. CIS has also produced a study guide and a set of exam question flash cards to help applicants prepare. Visit www.USCIS.gov/newtest for more information.

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 ten 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.

13. Name one branch or part of the government.*
    • Congress
    • legislative
    • President
    • executive
    • the courts
    • judicial

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?*
   Answers will vary [District of Columbia residents and residents of U.S. territories should answer that D.C. (or the territory where the applicant lives) has no U.S. Senators.]

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.
   Answers will vary [Residents of territories with nonvoting Delegates or Resident Commissioners may provide the name of that Delegate or Commissioner. Also acceptable is any statement that the territory has no (voting) Representatives in Congress.]

24. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
   • all people of the 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?
   • advises 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 Transportation
   • Secretary of Veterans’ Affairs
   • Secretary of Labor
   • Attorney General
   • Vice President

37. What does the judicial branch do?
   • reviews laws
   • explains 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?
   Answers will vary [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. does not have a Governor.]
44. What is the capital of your state?*
   Answers will vary [District of Columbia residents should answer that D.C. is not a state and does not have a capital. Residents of U.S. territories should name the capital of the territory.]

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

48. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.
   • Citizens eighteen (18) and older (can vote).
   • You don’t have to pay (a poll tax) to vote.
   • Any citizen can vote. (Women and men can vote.)
   • A male citizen of any race (can vote).

49. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?*
   • serve on a jury
   • vote in a federal election

50. Name one right only for United States citizens?
   • vote in a federal election
   • run for federal office

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 group
   • join a 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 forms?*
   • April 15

57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?
   • at age eighteen (18)
   • between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)

58. What is one reason colonists came to America?
   • freedom
   • political liberty
   • religious freedom
   • economic opportunity
   • practice their religion
   • escape persecution

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
   • Publius
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

71. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
- the Louisiana Territory
- Louisiana

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

78. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.*
- World War I
- World War II
- Korean War
- Vietnam War
- (Persian) Gulf War

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

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
- Cherokee
- Navajo
- Sioux
- Chippewa
- Choctaw
- Pueblo
- Apache
- Iroquois
- Creek
- Blackfeet
- Seminole
- Cheyenne
- Arawak
- Shawnee
- Mohegan
- Huron
- Oneida
- Lakota
- Crow
- Teton
- Hopi
- Inuit

88. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.
- Missouri (River)
- Mississippi (River)

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).]

96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?*
   • because there were 13 original colonies
   • because the stripes represent the original colonies

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

99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?*
   • July 4

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
Appendix D

Naturalization Exam: English Reading Vocabulary

To naturalize to U.S. citizenship, you must have knowledge of the English language, including an ability to read commonly used words. In order to find out if you meet this requirement, CIS will test you at your interview. There, you will be asked to read a sentence in English, which will contain words from the following list. If you do not read the sentence correctly, you will be given up to two more chances to get it right.

Waiver

You will not be given an English reading test if, on the day you filed your application, you were 1) at least 55 years old and a permanent resident for at least 15 years, or 2) at least 50 years old and a permanent resident for at least 20 years. You may also be excused from taking this exam if you are granted a “disability waiver”; read Appendix F “Disability Waiver of the English and Civics Requirements” for more information.

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**Appendix E**

### Naturalization Exam: English Writing Vocabulary

To naturalize to U.S. citizenship, you must have knowledge of the English language, including an ability to write commonly used words. In order to find out if you meet this requirement, CIS will test you at your interview. There, you will be asked to write a sentence in English, which will contain words from the following list. If you do not write the sentence correctly, you will be given up to two more chances to get it right.

**Waiver**

You will not be given an English writing test if, on the day you filed your application, you were 1) at least 55 years old and a permanent resident for at least 15 years, or 2) at least 50 years old and a permanent resident for at least 20 years. You may also be excused from taking this exam if you are granted a “disability waiver”; read Appendix F “Disability Waiver of the English and Civics Requirements” for more information.

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**Appendix E**

### Naturalization Exam: English Writing Vocabulary

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Appendix F

Disability Waiver of the English and Civics Requirements

If you have a disability that prevents you from meeting the English proficiency and/or U.S. government and history knowledge requirements for naturalization, you may ask for a waiver of these requirements. If CIS grants you the waiver, you will be able to become a citizen without taking any of the English or civics tests.

In order to qualify for the waiver, you must have a long-term physical or developmental disability or mental impairment so severe that it makes you completely unable to learn and demonstrate English and/or civics knowledge. Note that mere “old age” and “illiteracy” are not disabilities that qualify for this waiver.

To request a disability waiver, you will need to complete a Form N-648, “Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions”, with a licensed medical doctor, doctor of osteopathy, or clinical psychologist. The form and instructions are available at the CIS website at www.USCIS.gov > “Forms” > “Citizenship and Naturalization Based Forms” > “Medical Certification for Disability Exceptions” (Form N-648). Click both the “Instructions for Form N-648” and “N-648” links to get the forms you need.

If your doctor or psychologist is unfamiliar with this form, he/she should work with your immigration professional to ensure that it is completed correctly. Too often, applicants who are otherwise qualified for this waiver are denied simply because the doctor or psychologist did not understand how to best present the requested information. This is true particularly for Question 10, which asks for “detailed information on the nexus (connection) between the disability . . . and the applicant’s inability to learn and/or demonstrate knowledge of English and/or civics.” Here, your doctor/psychologist must be able to explain how the disability or impairment prevents you from learning or demonstrating English and/or civics. Some examples of “sufficient” responses are provided in the instructions, but experience tells us that they alone will rarely be accepted; there generally must be more information and detail provided to identify and explain the connections.

If you intend to request a disability waiver, you should include the completed N-648 with your Form N-400, “Application for Naturalization”. If you do not include it, you may bring it to your naturalization interview, but doing so might delay the decision on your N-400.
Appendix G

Additional Resources

The following resources may be of interest if you need help with your naturalization application.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS)
National Customer Service Center: (800)375-5283
www.USCIS.gov

CIS’s National Customer Service Center offers recorded messages and live assistance to help you get answers to your questions. Its website has a wealth of information about naturalization, including the civics examination in English, Chinese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Go to www.USCIS.gov/naturalization and www.USCIS.gov/newtest. The website also has new features that help you track the progress of your application and you can make an appointment to visit a nearby CIS office by using “InfoPass”.

Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC)
(213)977-7500
www.APALC.org

APALC is the nation's largest legal organization serving the Asian and Pacific Islander communities. You can access the English version of our video free of charge by going to our citizenship webpage at www.APALC.org/citizenship. Additional copies of the video and workbook in various languages are available for a nominal shipping/handling charge.

Community-based organizations

Throughout this workbook, we urge you to get help from a qualified individual or organization with experience in immigration law, particularly if you have any crimes on your record. If you aren’t sure where to start, talk first with a local nonprofit community-based organization that offers immigration services. Such a group may charge a small fee or nothing at all for their help, although you would still need to make sure that it is legitimate, reliable, and stable. Your friends and neighbors, house of worship, local library, etc., may be able to help you find a trustworthy organization.

Local adult school

An adult education center near your home may have classes to help you find out if you are eligible for naturalization, complete your N-400, prepare you for your interview and examinations, etc. Many classes are provided free or at low cost. To find a school, call your local government office (City Hall, for example) or library.
Lawyers

Although many citizenship applicants can get through the naturalization process on their own, some may need an experienced immigration lawyer to help them verify their eligibility for citizenship, answer complex questions, research difficult issues, or represent them at their interviews. For tips on finding, hiring, and working with a lawyer, contact your state’s Bar Association. Very often, their office or website will have advice on getting the legal help you need. Call your local library for contact information or visit www.findlegalhelp.org.

WARNING: Fraudulent immigration consultants

If you decide to get help from an individual or business, you need to be very careful. Although some of these “immigration consultants” (or ICs) may be licensed by the state and even do good work, many exist only to take your money while providing little or no service. Although a legitimate community-based organization or immigration attorney will never guarantee success in your case, you are encouraged to seek their assistance before turning to an immigration consultant. If you choose to go with an IC, protect yourself.

• Check with your state’s Bar Association to see if it has any information on the IC. Also, your local Better Business Bureau or consumer protection agency may be aware of complaints filed against the IC.

• Demand to see any licenses, announcements, etc., that the IC is required to have or display in their office. (Check with your state or local government for this information.)

• Insist that the IC provide you with clear answers and explanations to your questions.

• Never sign blank forms.

• Review all the papers that the IC plans to file for you and make sure the information is correct.

• Keep a copy of every document the IC prepares for you.

• Do not leave original documents such as your passport with the IC.

• Make sure your application fees are made payable to “US Department of Homeland Security” or to “US Citizenship and Immigration Services”, not to the IC.

• Get receipts for any fees you pay for the IC’s services.

• Keep a record of every meeting and phone conversation you have with the IC. Include the date and time, the name of the person you talked with, and the topics of discussion.

• Report the IC to a law enforcement agency and/or consumer protection office in your area if it does not answer the phone or return your calls.
Application Tracker

Use this handy form to keep an eye on the progress of your naturalization application.

☐ I sent my N-400 to CIS on: ______________________ (date)

☐ I received a Receipt
   • My “Application Number” is: _______________________
   • My “Priority Date” is: ______________________ (date)

☐ I received a Fingerprint Notification
   • My fingerprint appointment is on: ______________________ (date)
   • At this time: __________
   • At this address: ______________________________
                       ______________________________

☐ I received a Request to Appear for Naturalization Initial Interview
   • My interview is on: ______________________ (date)
   • At this time: __________
   • At this address: ______________________________
                       ______________________________

☐ I received a Notice of Naturalization Oath Ceremony
   • My oath ceremony is on: ______________________ (date)
   • At this time: __________
   • At this address: ______________________________
                       ______________________________