

MOCK

CITIZENSHIP

INTERVIEW

INFORMATION

AND TOOLS

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If you are like me the thought of helping someone prepare for a citizenship test with an agent of the federal government can be intimidating. After eight and a half years of feedback from students who have passed the test, trial and error and wonderful mentoring from Mrs. Juanita Adams I can now feel more confident and hopefully pass on some of the mentoring and confidence to you.

Knowing some basic facts about the testing process might be beneficial to you and your ministry. The wait time from mailing the application until taking the test and oath is approximately four to five months. Your student will be given two opportunities to pass the test with approximately 60 days between test one and test two. If your student does not pass the test the second time the application process will unfortunately have to begin again.

The average Citizenship test interview last approximately 20 minutes. Each officer administers about fifteen interviews per day. The law requires the test to be administered orally.

The day of the test your student will pass through security, check in and go to the waiting room on the assigned floor. The testing officer will either call your students name or an assigned number. The student will be taken to the examination room and may be asked a conversational question such as: Did you have any trouble finding a parking place today? Or is it still raining outside? The oath to tell the truth will be administered. Your student will be seated and the interview will begin, including going over the citizenship application (N400), writing, reading, and civics questions. Your student may take the oath the same day or be sent a letter instructing him/her when and where to come for their oath ceremony.

After becoming a citizen your student will want to update his/ her driver's license and Social Security card. Your student may also want to apply for a U. S. passport and register to vote.

The opportunity to be a part of the Citizenship Ministry at my church is so rewarding and a lot less intimidating than it used to be. I pray that you will reap the same rewards and that God will bless you and your ministry.

MOCK CITIZENSHIP INTERVIEW WORKSHEET



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

SCORING GUIDELINES FOR THE U.S. NATURALIZATION TEST

Section 312 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) provides that most applicants for naturalization demonstrate an understanding of the English language, including an ability to read, write, and speak words in ordinary usage in the English language, as well as a knowledge of U.S. government and history (civics).¹ This document provides a general description of how the U.S. Naturalization Test is evaluated and scored by Officers of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

SPKAKING: An applicant's verbal skills are determined by the applicant's answers to questions normally asked by USCIS Officers during the naturalization eligibility interview. USCIS Officers are required to repeat and rephrase questions until the Officer is satisfied that the applicant either fully understands the question or does not understand English. If the applicant generally understands and can respond intelligibly to questions relevant to the determination of eligibility, the applicant has demonstrated the ability to speak English.

READING: To sufficiently demonstrate the ability to read in English, applicants must read one sentence, out of three sentences, in a manner suggesting to the USCIS Officer that the applicant appears to understand the meaning of the sentence. Once the applicant reads one of three sentences correctly, USCIS procedures require that the USCIS Officer will stop administering the reading test. Applicants shall not be failed because of their accent when speaking English. A general description of how the reading test is scored follows:

Pass:

- Reads one sentence without extended pauses
- Reads all content words but may omit short words that do not interfere with meaning
- May make pronunciation or intonation errors that do not interfere with meaning

Fail:

- Does not read the sentence
- Omits a content word or substitutes another word for a content word
- Pauses for extended periods of time while reading the sentence
- Makes pronunciation or intonation errors that interfere with meaning

¹ The English language requirement may be waived for an applicant, who on the date of filing the Application for Naturalization, Form N-400, was over 50 years old and had been a permanent resident for at least 20 years, or was over 55 years old and had been a permanent resident for at least 15 years. If such exemption applies, the applicant is not tested in English and may take the civics examination in the applicant's language of choice. An applicant, who on the date of filing the Application, was over 65 years old and has been a permanent resident for 20 years, is not tested in English and qualifies to take a simplified version of the civics test in the applicant's language of choice. Also, both the English language and civics requirements for naturalization are waived for applicants who are unable to comply with these requirements because of a medical or physical impediment. To address a passing score on the civics test, applicants are required to answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly.

- Waiting room to interview room
- Interview
- Civics Questions
- Reading and Writing Test
- After the interview



The Oath of Allegiance is a promise that you make when you become a citizen. The words are old and difficult to understand—even for people who speak English very well.

Listen to the oath, I will explain each part.

OATH: I hereby declare, so help me God . . .
 MEANING: I promise today.

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 . . .

MEANING: I am not a citizen of my old country any more. I am a citizen of the U.S. now.

OATH: . . . that I will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America . . .

MEANING: I believe in the Constitution and the laws of the United States, and I will support them.

OATH: . . . against all enemies, foreign and domestic . . .

MEANING: I will not let anyone—from this country or from any other country—take away our form of government.

OATH: . . . that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same . . .

MEANING: I will be loyal to my country and to the Constitution.

OATH: . . . that I will bear arms on behalf of the United States when required by law . . .

MEANING: If my country needs me, I will fight in the Armed Forces.

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

MEANING: If my country needs me, I will do work to help the Armed Forces.

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

MEANING: If my country needs me, I will do work in my community.

OATH: . . . and, that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion . . .

MEANING: I agree that this is my choice and that no one is forcing me or scolding me into making this promise.

OATH: . . . so help me God.

MEANING: Let God hear my words.

119 Part 16: Additional Questions

WRITING: To sufficiently demonstrate the ability to write in English, the applicant must write one sentence, out of three sentences, in a manner that would be understandable as written to the USCIS Office. Once the applicant writes one of three sentences correctly, USCIS procedures require that the USCIS Officer will stop administering the writing test. An applicant shall not be failed because of spelling, capitalization, or punctuation errors unless the errors would prevent understanding the meaning of the sentence. A general description of how the writing portion is scored follows:

Pass:

- Has the same general meaning as the dictated sentence
- May contain some grammatical, spelling, punctuation, or capitalization errors that do not interfere with meaning
- May omit short words that do not interfere with meaning
- Numbers may be spelled out or written as digits

Fail:

- Writes nothing or only one or two isolated words
- Is completely illegible
- Writes a different sentence or words
- Written sentence does not communicate the meaning of the dictated sentence

CIVICS: To sufficiently demonstrate knowledge of U.S. government and history (civics), the applicant must answer six of ten questions correctly. The civics test will be an oral examination. Once the applicant answers six questions correctly, USCIS procedures require that the USCIS Officer will stop administering the civics test. A general description of how the civics portion is scored follows:

Pass:

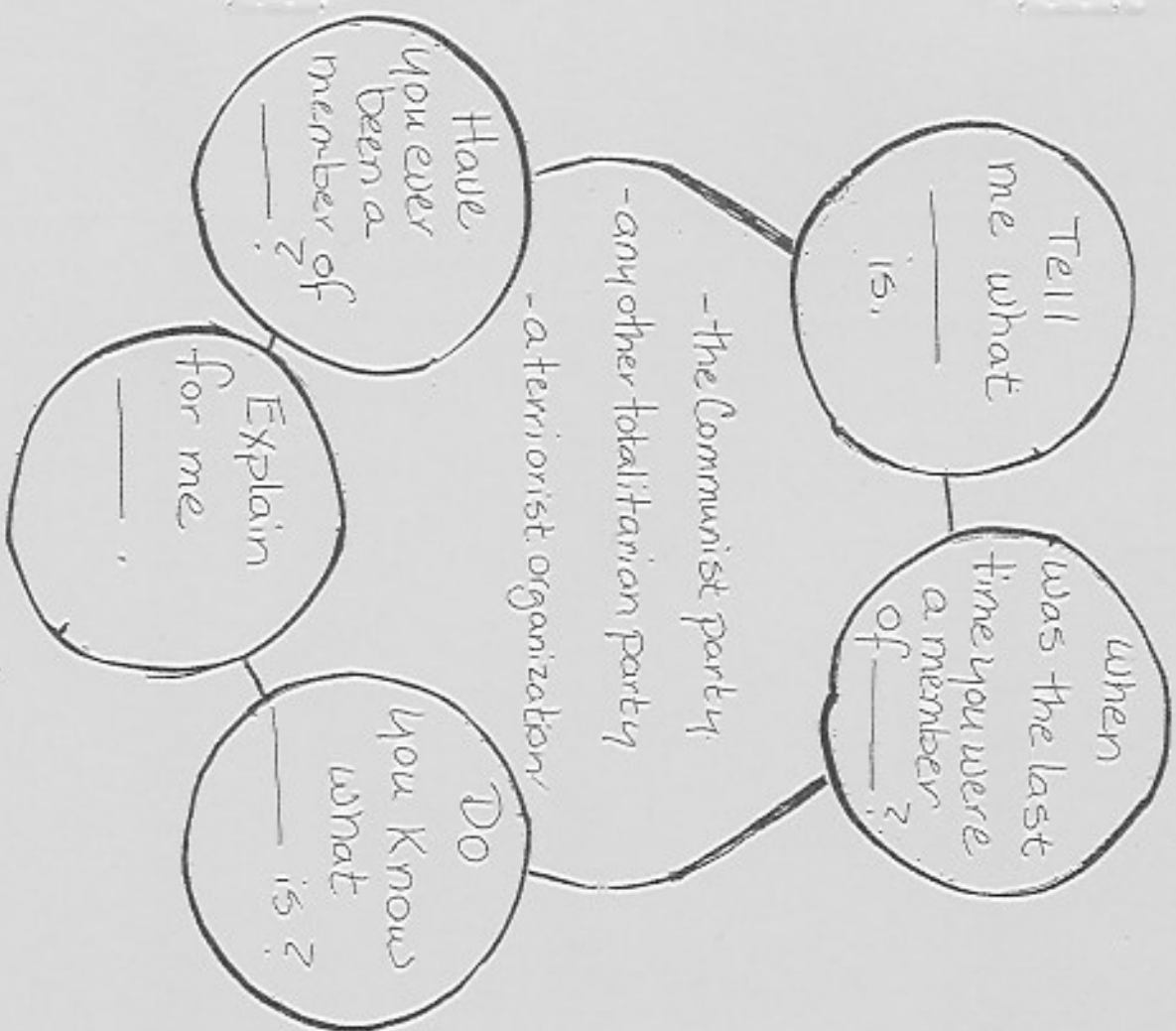
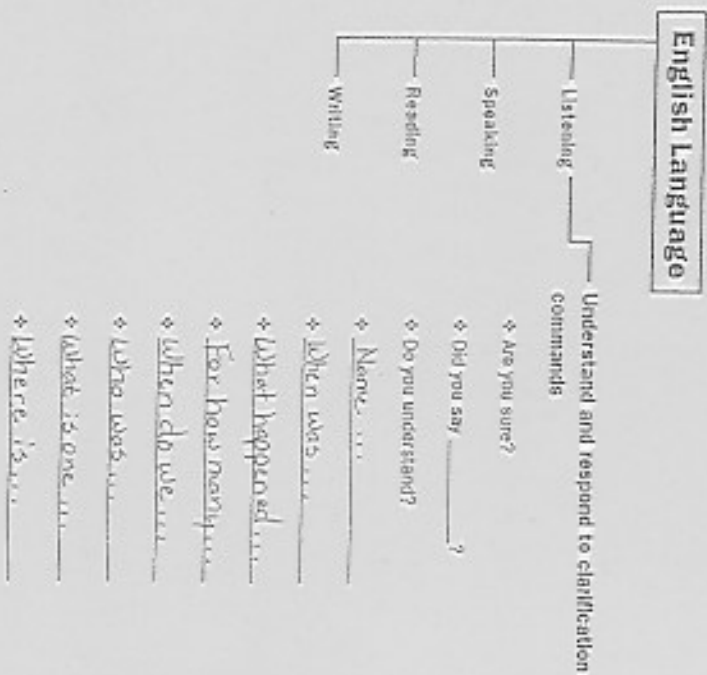
- Provides a correct answer
- Provides an alternative phrasing of the correct answer

Fail:

- Provides an incorrect answer
- Fails to respond

According to regulation, applicants who fail the English literacy and/or civics test during their first examination will be rescheduled to appear for a second opportunity to take the test (8 CFR 312.5).

These are some examples of questions and commands that may be asked by your student's USCIS officer to fulfill the speaking requirement. Courtesy: USCIS Atlanta office



English Language

Understand questions about everyday life

Listening

◆ Is it raining?

◆ Did you have a hard time finding a place to park?

◆ Who came with you today?

◆ How did you get here today?

◆ _____

◆ _____

◆ _____

◆ _____

◆ _____

◆ _____

◆ _____

SAMPLE ONLY

English Language

Understand and act on basic commands

Listening

◆ follow (me)

◆ remain (standing)

◆ sit (down)

◆ raise (your right hand)

◆ wait (there)

◆ sign (your name)

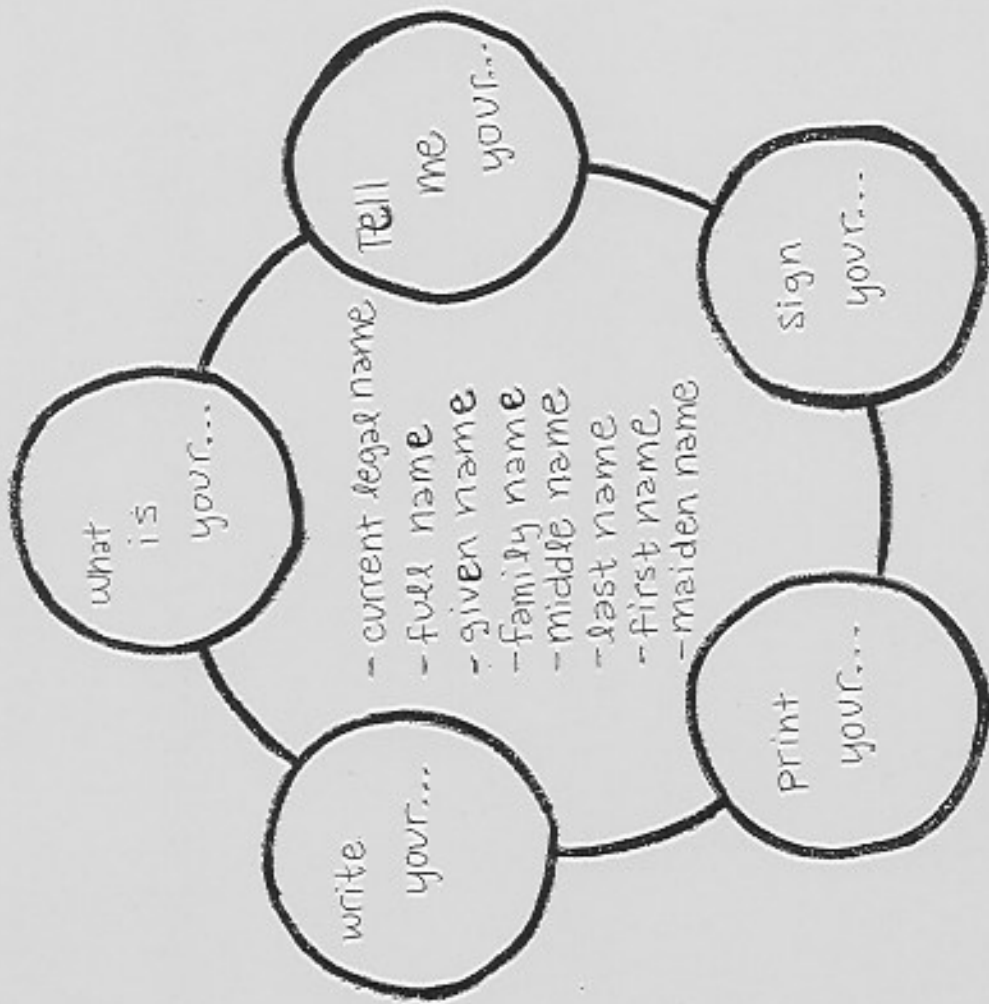
◆ print (your name)

◆ read (the first sentence)

◆ write (exactly what I say)

◆ hand (me)

◆ review (the information)



(your husband's - wives)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

President: Barack Obama:



Johnny Isakson



David Purdew



Name the two United States Senators from Georgia:

Who is your US Representative?



9th District of Georgia

Doug Collins

Vice President: Joe Biden:



Speaker of the House of Representatives: John Boehner



Chief Justice of the Supreme Court: John G. Roberts

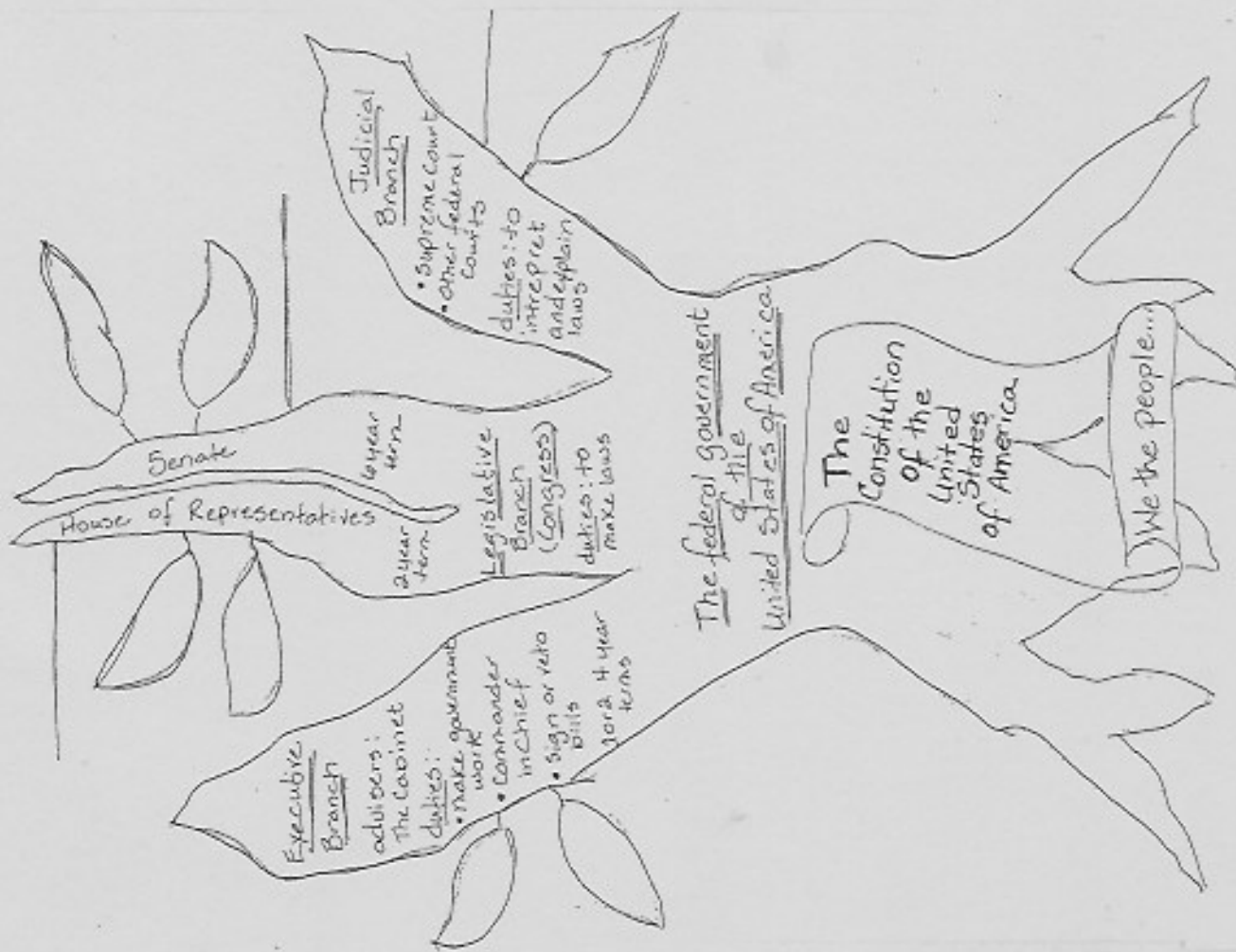


STATE OF GEORGIA:

Governor: Nathan Deal



This is an example of pictures and names of government officials that your students will need to know.



Understanding the structure of our federal government can be daunting. This is a tool that can be used to help students visualize the foundation and branches of the government. Note the empty leaves and lines beside each of the branches. These are for names and various answers to be written in by the student.