

## N-400 Naturalization Interview Preparation Guide

**Purpose:** This guide helps permanent residents prepare for the structural, civic, and linguistic requirements of the U.S. Citizenship (N-400) interview.

### 1. What to Expect: The Three Components of the Test

The naturalization interview is broken down into three distinct evaluations. Applicants must pass each section to be approved.

#### I . The Civics Test (History & Government)

- **The Format:** The USCIS officer will ask up to **10 questions** from a predetermined list of 100 civics questions.
- **Passing Score:** The applicant must answer **6 out of 10 questions correctly** to pass. As soon as 6 correct answers are reached, the civics portion stops.
- **Language:** Spoken entirely in English (unless the applicant qualifies for an age/residency waiver).

#### II . The English Test

The English evaluation measures basic literacy and conversational proficiency through three sub-sections:

1. **Speaking:** Evaluated from the moment the applicant enters the room. The officer judges the ability to understand basic instructions, take the oath, and answer questions about the N-400 application.
2. **Reading:** The applicant is handed a tablet or a piece of paper with a sentence and must read it aloud correctly. They have **3 chances** to read one sentence correctly.
3. **Writing:** The officer will dictate a sentence aloud. The applicant must write it down exactly as spoken. They have **3 chances** to write one sentence correctly.

#### III. The N-400 Application Review (The "Part 12" Security Questions)

The officer will review the individual's submitted Form N-400 to verify that all information remains accurate.

- **Critical Focus:** Officers heavily scrutinize **Part 12 (General Questions)**. These are the "Have you ever..." questions regarding criminal history, tax filings, travel history, and organizational memberships.

- **Vocabulary Check:** Officers frequently ask applicants to define complex legal words used in Part 12 to prove they understand what they signed (e.g., “*What does it mean to commit a crime?*” or “*What is a totalitarian party?*”).

## 2. Top Tips for Interview Day Success

- **Review the Exact N-400 Copy:** Review a complete copy of the filed N-400 application before entering the building. Ensure dates of travel, addresses, and employment match what will be said out loud.
- **Bring Life Document Updates:** Bring the original versions of all civil documents (Green Card, passports, marriage certificates, divorce decrees). If there are outstanding tax balances, bring certified IRS transcripts showing IRS payment plans.
- **Listen to the Command Verbs:** Pay close attention to standard officer commands during the security screening and entry process, such as:
  - *"Please remain standing."*
  - *"Raise your right hand."*
  - *"Please place your index finger on the scanner."*
- **Do Not Guess:** If a question is not understood, it is perfectly acceptable to say: *"Could you please rephrase the question, officer?"* Guessing can lead to unintentional false statements.

## 3. Specialist Compliance Reminder

⚠ **Important Professional Boundary:** As an Immigration Form Specialist, you can help students practice these questions, quiz them on the 100 civics topics, and review their form details. However, if a client has complex criminal arrests, unresolved tax issues, or extended trips outside the U.S. exceeding 6 months, **they must be referred to a licensed immigration attorney** for legal evaluation before going to their interview.