



Naturalization Test Redesign Project Civics Item Selection Analysis

January 2008



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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INTRODUCTION

Naturalization Test Redesign Project: Civics Item Selection Analysis provides an overview of the development of content items for the U.S. history and government (civics) portion of the redesigned naturalization test. This document also reviews the process used to gather and analyze data from multiple studies to determine which civics test items to maintain, revise, or eliminate.

The data presented in this document was compiled from two sources: a Pilot Study and a Supplemental Study. The Pilot Study serves as the primary source of data and was conducted at ten randomly selected U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) offices throughout the nation. In the Pilot Study, applicants who chose to participate had ample time to study the civics questions for the naturalization test.

Taking into account the regulatory mandate requiring “due consideration” (8 CFR 312.2(c)(2)), a Supplemental Study was conducted to identify items that would be appropriate for low and high-beginning students. The Supplemental Study was conducted at English as a second language (ESL)/citizenship classes where prospective applicants were pursuing classroom education to prepare for the naturalization test and interview. In this study, USCIS focused on lower-level adult civics and citizenship classes. The purpose was to examine how individuals who were preparing for the English and civics portions of the naturalization test would compare with applicants who had already filed for naturalization and were, therefore, more likely ready to take the test. Data from this study provided USCIS with an indicator to determine item difficulty for a specific population.

Lastly, this document presents performance ranges on individual test items for both studies as well as selection codes to indicate the rationale for keeping an item “as is,” revising the item, or discarding the item completely.

BACKGROUND

The need for a new naturalization test was formally stated in several studies in the late 1990s that summarized issues of concern related to the administration and content of the current naturalization test. Studies by Coopers & Lybrand, the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Inspector General all commented on lack of standardization as an important issue to address. In addition, the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform's 1997 Report to Congress stated that the former Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) should conduct a full review of the content of the naturalization test and develop a more meaningful test.

The Office of Citizenship, a component within USCIS, was charged in April 2005 with developing a process to redesign the current naturalization test. The primary goal of the redesign process was to create a test that is fair, standardized, and meaningful to naturalization applicants by January 2007, with implementation beginning in October 2008.

FAIR

USCIS developed a naturalization test that is fair for all test takers. Fairness involves ensuring that the test is valid and also free of biases and barriers that may inappropriately affect test takers' performance. Fairness regarding the redesigned test will be achieved through standardization of content and uniform test administration.

MEANINGFUL

The second criterion of the redesign initiative was to create a testing process, and test content, that is meaningful for applicants. USCIS envisioned enhancing the test's meaningfulness by encouraging civic learning through the development of concept-based test items and educational study materials provided through the immigration process. These materials would focus on concepts such as the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, rule of law, and inalienable rights. Immigrants will be able to use the knowledge acquired through either self-study or through classroom education to more effectively integrate themselves into their communities. To meet this need, the USCIS Office of Citizenship will produce educational materials to accompany the redesigned test.

USCIS also recognized that infusing meaning required an understanding of the educational needs of those individuals pursuing U.S. citizenship. The test redesign process involved the selection of items adaptable to learners' cognitive and linguistic abilities and that encouraged active learning and participation.

BASELINE PARAMETERS

With two clear objectives in mind—developing a fair and meaningful test—USCIS followed certain parameters to guide its redesign efforts. The first parameter was the level of difficulty. The redesigned test was developed to maintain the same level of difficulty

as the current test. To accomplish this, USCIS conducted a record study to determine the pass rate for the civics test and the pass rate for the three components of the English test: speaking, reading, and writing. With the acquired data, and by utilizing the U.S. Department of Education's National Reporting System for Adult Education (NRS) to provide a framework and target test development level for non-native speakers of English, USCIS determined a linguistic and cognitive level approximation of the current test. (Information on the NRS can be accessed at <http://www.nrsweb.org/>)

The second parameter that guided test development was the statutory requirements set forth in the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA). Section 312 of the INA provides "no person shall be naturalized as a citizen of the United States upon his own application who cannot demonstrate an understanding of the English language, including an ability to read, write and speak words in ordinary usage in the English language: Provided, that the requirements of this paragraph relating to the ability to read and write shall be met if the applicant can read or write simple words and phrases to the end that a reasonable test of his literacy shall be made and that no extraordinary or unreasonable conditions be imposed on the applicant." With regard to the civics portion of the test, the law states in section 312(a)(2) that an applicant shall not be naturalized as a citizen if he cannot demonstrate "a knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of the history, and of the principles and form of government of the United States." In addition, the INA provides information on applicant exemptions based on physical and medical conditions as well as certain exemptions for age combined with the amount of time lived in the country.

The third parameter that guided development was test design. USCIS made a commitment that the redesigned test would be neither more difficult nor easier than the current test; but rather, one that was meaningful, standardized, and fair. For example, the test should take the same length of time as the current test to administer and require the same number of questions according to current USCIS guidance. To this end, USCIS developed a process to develop a redesigned test that fell within the specified parameters.

TEST DEVELOPMENT

One of the first tasks undertaken by the USCIS Office of Citizenship was the development of a six-phase project plan to guide the redesign initiative. The plan included the following phases: Transition, Discovery, Development, Pre-Implementation, Implementation, and Post-Implementation. USCIS contracted with the American Institutes of Research (AIR) to assist with the Development, Pre-Implementation, Implementation, and Post-Implementation phases. Part of the collaboration with AIR included the Pilot Study and a Supplemental Study on the civics portion of the redesigned test.

USCIS also utilized the expertise of an adult education expert Technical Advisory Group (TAG). The TAG was comprised of eight consultants with expertise in one or more of the following areas: adult second language acquisition; test development and administration; adult English as a second language instruction and methodology; knowledge of

psychometrics in test development; and, an understanding of the naturalization process. The TAG provided expert advice regarding language level difficulty of the redesigned test items to ensure that the redesigned test coincided with the educational requirements for naturalization set forth in Section 312 of the INA.

PILOT STUDY

The target number of civics items for the final test was to remain at 100. In order to ensure that we had an over representative number of items in the various topic areas to pilot, an additional 42 items were chosen. Once the 142 civics test items were developed, USCIS, in collaboration with AIR, conducted a Pilot Study at ten randomly selected USCIS District Office sites nationwide. The purpose of the Pilot Study was to determine if naturalization applicants who volunteered to participate in the pilot could pass the civics portion of the naturalization test using the piloted items. An evaluation of the pilot reflected that 92.4% of the volunteer naturalization applicants achieved a passing rate.

USCIS provided Pilot Study participants with test preparation materials to study for the test after they filed for naturalization. These individuals most likely prepared for the civics test before participating in the pilot. Results of the Pilot Study analysis are classified into the following categories:

- Low (< 25%)
- Medium low (25.0 – 49.9%)
- Medium high (50.0 – 74.9%)
- High (75.0 – 100%)

The item analysis on the subsequent pages of this document examines how well pilot participants scored on the piloted civics items using the categories above. The ranges in the chart show whether the majority of applicants scored well (overall) on the item or performed poorly. Findings obtained from the Pilot Study served as an important source of information throughout the test redesign process.

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY

USCIS also conducted a Supplemental Study to determine how well a specific population would perform on the individual civics test items. This population consisted of individuals enrolled in English as a second language (ESL) classes who possessed low-beginning to high-beginning levels of English comprehension. By focusing on this population USCIS could ascertain how well naturalization applicants with lower levels of English literacy would be able to understand and answer the test questions (see Baseline Parameters).

For the Supplemental Study, and unlike the Pilot Study, participants had indirect access to the information. In other words, Supplemental Study participants had access to the study materials but may or may not have chosen to study prior to participation. Another significant difference between the two studies was that participants in the Supplemental Study were not volunteers. In summary, the objectives of the Supplemental Study were to

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focus on performance levels for each individual test item and to help test developers identify whether revisions were needed on a particular item to ensure that it was written at the appropriate English language level.

The range for how well applicants performed on each of the trials is provided in the chart under the title “Supplemental Study Results” in the following item analysis pages. The Supplemental Study results are classified into the categories below:

- Low (< 25%)
- Medium low (25.0 – 49.9%)
- Medium high (50.0 – 74.9%)
- High (75.0 – 100%)

The Supplemental Study chart provides the result of the trial and, if applicable, re-trial of the item. The ranges indicate whether the majority of applicants scored well overall on the item or performed poorly. USCIS used information obtained from the Supplemental Study as guidance when developing the question and answer items of the redesigned civics test.

LOOKING FORWARD

USCIS developed a test in the context of U.S. naturalization policy that does not specifically mandate a formal testing process. Therefore, rather than a punitive assessment, the redesigned test can be understood as a vehicle for a naturalization candidate to learn about the principles of American democracy and further identify with its civic values.

The *Naturalization Test Redesign Project: Civics Item Selection Analysis* was created to provide insight into the civics portion of the redesign initiative. The data demonstrate that applicants who studied for the test achieved an average pass rate of 92.4% on the Pilot Study. To assist applicants and adult education teachers, the USCIS Office of Citizenship is in the process of creating study materials to accompany the redesigned civics test items. These materials will be developed for use both as self-study tools and in the classroom. The objective for all USCIS study materials will be to prepare the applicant for the naturalization test and further promote civic learning and integration.

FINAL ITEM SELECTION ANALYSIS

Naturalization applicants will still be required to answer six (6) out of ten (10) civics test questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the redesigned test. Following this measure, test developers were responsible for narrowing down 142 test items to 100 final test items. Items were reviewed according to three major areas.

The first area, linguistic simplicity, involved reviewing the language difficulty of each item to ensure that it was at an appropriate linguistic level. The second area focused on evaluating and ensuring that test content was meaningful. The third area of review involved meeting test design specifications. For example, USCIS worked with a panel of experts to select topics covered in the content items and to ensure the test met the desirable specifications for the number of questions in each section.

LINGUISTIC SIMPLICITY

When an item was developed, linguistic parameters were applied in accordance with the statutory requirements of the INA which provide that applicants be able to read, write, speak, and understand words in “ordinary usage in the English language.” To ensure that the item was developed at the correct linguistic level, USCIS relied on the expert opinion of its TAG which followed specific rules for improving language content. These guidelines consisted of using:

- Simple words and phrases
- Words found in “ordinary usage in the English language”
- Simple grammar and sentence structure to avoid longer sentences and complexity
- Simplified language without jeopardizing important concepts

During the item revision process, the TAG endeavored to eliminate unnecessary words, whenever possible.

MEANINGFUL CONTENT

During the redesign process, some new items were added to expand meaningful content and/or add depth of meaning to the test. For example, instead of asking whose rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, the revised test item asks the applicant to identify two specific individual rights listed in these documents. Additional test items were added to extend civic, government, and/or history content.

TEST DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS

USCIS conducted a literature review of textbooks, developed a matrix, and had a panel of experts review the matrix to ensure pertinent parts of American history were covered in the redesigned test. The test questions fall within the following sections: Principles of American Democracy, System of Government, Rights and Responsibilities, Colonial Period and Independence, 1800s, Recent American History and Other Important

Historical Information, Geography, Symbols, and Holidays. Some test items were deleted due to a limitation on the number of questions included within each section (refer to number three in the coding system below). Due to test design limitations, the developers were restricted in the amount of questions that could be included. For example, during the redesign process, several questions were developed on the concept of “veto.” It was determined that, due to test design limitations, there could only be one question on the concept of “veto.” In a case such as this, USCIS will develop additional learning materials for applicants that will provide a deeper understanding of important concepts covered in the final 100 civics test items.

CODING SYSTEM

To guide test developers in the item revision and selection process, a coding system was developed and applied to each item. This coding system reflects an analysis of revisions to the original item (current naturalization test question) that led to the piloted item and/or revisions to the piloted item that led to the final test item. Codes may also indicate an analysis of items that should be included in the piloted or final items. The following five codes were used:

1. Added Meaning

The item was added or a current item was revised in order to add depth of meaning. Examples of adding depth of meaning can include:

- expanding the breadth of a content area, e.g., including a question about a time period of history excluded in the current test,
- deepening the meaning of a current item, e.g., making an item more thought provoking,
- adding an item that reinforces other items, e.g., adding a question about geography that would help an applicant better grasp an item on history.

2. Linguistic Simplicity

The item was re-written in order to use more ordinary English terms (simple words and phrases). The TAG analyzed each item on the test. Where possible, the TAG substituted simple words in place of higher level words. They also replaced difficult sentence constructions that used the passive voice as well as complex and compound sentences with active and simple sentences. Finally, sentence order was changed to move more pertinent information toward the end of the sentence.

3. Eliminated Content

Redundant content was eliminated in order to expand the depth and breadth of the test and to reduce confusion. In addition, certain items were eliminated if they required extensive knowledge of a subject area in order to fully grasp the meaning of an item.

4. Revised - Due to Test Design

One or more variables contributed to the item not performing the way it was intended. Because the content was considered “fundamental,” the item was revised.

5. Deleted - Due to Test Design

One or more variables contributed to the item not performing the way it was intended. If revisions were also unsuccessful, or if the content was represented in one or more other items, the item was deleted from the test. Some items were also deleted due to the limit of 100 questions that could be included in the final test.

ANALYSIS

The subsequent pages of this document describe the revision and selection process for each of the 142 piloted civics test items including one item that was not formally piloted, but was incorporated into the final test. The item, “What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?” is similar to the piloted item, “What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?” The former item was not piloted due to the similar grammatical structure and vocabulary of the latter piloted item. Within this document, the first part of the analysis presents each of the final 100 selected civics items for the redesigned naturalization test by section (Principles of American Government, System of Government, Rights and Responsibilities, Colonial Period and Independence, 1800s, Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information, Geography, Symbols, and Holidays). The analysis for each of the final 100 selected civics items includes: Pilot Study results, Supplemental Study results, and rationale for change. The second part of the analysis presents the items that were deleted. The analysis for each of the deleted items includes: Pilot Study results, Supplemental Study results, and rationale for deleting the piloted items. For a complete list of the 142 pilot test items, see Appendix A. For a complete list of the final 100 civics items for the redesigned naturalization test, see Appendix B. For a content comparison between the civics items included on the current naturalization test and the civics items selected for the redesigned test, see Appendix C.

A: Principles of American Democracy

FINAL ITEM: What is the supreme law of the land?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the supreme law of the land?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the supreme law of the land?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: What is the supreme law of the United States?

Coding System

1 – Added meaning

3 – Eliminated content

5 – Deleted - test design

2 – Linguistic simplicity

4 – Revised - test design

FINAL ITEM: What does the Constitution do?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What does the Constitution do?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What does the Constitution do?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: What is the Constitution?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What does “We the People” mean in the Constitution?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What does “We the People” mean in the Constitution?

Re-trial Item: The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial			✓		

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: What is the introduction to the Constitution called?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is an amendment?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is an amendment?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is an amendment?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Can the Constitution be changed?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: What are the first 10 amendments to the Constitution called?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one right or freedom from the First Amendment.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one right or freedom from the First Amendment.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: Name one right or freedom guaranteed by the first amendment.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: How many amendments does the Constitution have?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How many amendments does the Constitution have?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How many amendments does the Constitution have?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: How many changes, or amendments, are there to the Constitution?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What did the Declaration of Independence do?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What did the Declaration of Independence do?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What did the Declaration of Independence do?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: What are some of the basic beliefs of the Declaration of Independence?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name two of the natural, or inalienable, rights in the Declaration of Independence.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name two of the natural, or inalienable, rights in the Declaration of Independence.

Re-trial Item: Inalienable rights are natural rights that people are born with. What are two of these rights in the Declaration of Independence?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial		✓			

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: What are some of the basic beliefs of the Declaration of Independence?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is freedom of religion?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What does freedom of religion mean?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What does freedom of religion mean?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is the economic system in the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What type of economic system does the U.S. have?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What type of economic system does the U.S. have?

Re-trial Item: What is the economic system in the U.S.?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial			✓		

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is the “rule of law”?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the “rule of law”?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the “rule of law”?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

B: System of Government

FINAL ITEM: Name one branch or part of the government.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one branch or part of the government.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one branch or part of the government.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Items: What are the three branches of our government?
 How many branches are there in the United States government?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one example of checks and balances.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one example of checks and balances.

Re-trial Item: What system of government stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial		✓			

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who is in charge of the executive branch?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is in charge of the executive branch?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is in charge of the executive branch?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: Who is the head of the Executive Branch of the U.S. Government?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who makes federal laws?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who makes federal laws?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who makes federal laws?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: Who makes the Federal laws in the United States?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What are the two parts of the United States Congress?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What are the two parts of the United States Congress?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: What makes up Congress?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: How many U.S. Senators are there?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How many United States Senators are there?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How many United States Senators are there?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: How many Senators are there in Congress?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: For how long do we elect each Senator?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who is one of your state’s U.S. Senators?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name your state’s two U.S. Senators.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name your state’s two U.S. Senators.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: Name two Senators from your state.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: How many voting members are in the House of Representatives?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: For how long do we elect each member of the House of Representatives?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Name your U.S. Representative.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name your U.S. Representative.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name your U.S. Representative.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who does a U.S. Senator represent?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How is each state’s number of Representatives decided?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How is each state’s number of Representatives decided?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: We elect a President for how many years?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: We elect a President for how many years?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: We elect a President for how many years?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial				✓	
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: For how long is the President elected?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: In what month do we vote for President?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: In what month are general presidential elections held in the United States?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: In what month are general presidential elections held in the United States?

Re-trial Item: When do the people vote for President?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial				✓	

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: In what month do we vote for the President?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is the name of the President of the United States now?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the name of the President of the United States?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the name of the President of the United States?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial				✓	
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: Who is the President of the United States today?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the name of the Vice President of the United States?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the name of the Vice President of the United States?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: Who is the Vice President of the United States today?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Who becomes President if the President dies?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who becomes President if both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who becomes President if both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Who becomes President if both the President and Vice President die?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Commander-in-Chief of the military?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Commander-in-Chief of the military?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: Who is Commander-in-Chief of the United States military?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who signs bills to become laws?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who signs bills to become laws?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who signs bills to become laws?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: Who signs bills into law?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who vetoes bills?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who vetoes bills?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who vetoes bills?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What does the President’s Cabinet do?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What does the President’s Cabinet do?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What does the President’s Cabinet do?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: What special group advises the President?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What are two Cabinet-level positions?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name two Cabinet-level positions.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name two Cabinet-level positions.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What does the judicial branch do?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What does the judicial branch do?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What does the judicial branch do?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: What are the duties of the Supreme Court?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is the highest court in the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the highest court in the U.S.?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the highest court in the U.S.?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: No change

Original Item: What is the highest court in the United States?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How many justices are on the Supreme Court?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: How many Supreme Court Justices are there?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: Who is Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one thing only the federal government can do.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one thing only the federal government can do.

Re-trial Item: Our Constitution limits powers to the Federal government. What is one power of the Federal government?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial		✓			

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is one thing a state government can do?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is one thing a state government can do?

Re-trial Item: Under our Constitution, powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial		✓			

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who is the Governor of your state?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Governor of your state?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Governor of your state?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: Who is the current Governor of the state you live in?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is the capital of your state?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the capital (or capital city) of your state?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the capital (or capital city) of your state?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial				✓	
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: What is the capital of the state you live in?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What are the two major political parties in the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What are the two major political parties in the U.S. today?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What are the two major political parties in the U.S. today?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: What are the two major political parties in the United States today?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is the political party of the President now?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the political party of the President now?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the political party of the President now?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

C: Rights and Responsibilities

FINAL ITEM: There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Name the amendments that guarantee or address voting rights.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one responsibility that is only for United States citizens.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one responsibility that is only for United States citizens.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What are two rights only for United States citizens?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name two rights that are only for United States citizens.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name two rights that are only for United States citizens.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: What is the most important right granted to United States citizens?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name two rights of everyone living in the U.S.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name two rights of everyone living in the U.S.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Whose rights are guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the Pledge of Allegiance?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the Pledge of Allegiance?

Re-trial Item: Why do we say the Pledge of Allegiance?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial		✓			

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one promise you make when you say the Oath of Allegiance.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one promise you make when you say the Oath of Allegiance.

Re-trial Item: When you become a citizen, what is one promise you make?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial		✓			

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who can vote in the U.S. presidential elections?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who can vote in the U.S. presidential elections?

Re-trial Item: How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial				✓	

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: What is the minimum voting age in the United States?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: When must all men register for the Selective Service?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: When must all males register for the Selective Service?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: When must all males register for the Selective Service?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

D: Colonial Period and Independence

FINAL ITEM: What is one reason colonists came to America?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one reason why the colonists came to America.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one reason why the colonists came to America.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Why did the Pilgrims come to America?

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Who helped the Pilgrims in America?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Why did the colonists fight the British?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Why did the colonists fight the British?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Why did the colonists fight the British?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: What country did we fight during the Revolutionary War?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Who was the main writer of the Declaration of Independence?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: No change.

Original Item: When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: There were 13 original states. Name three.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: There are 13 original states. Name three.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: There are 13 original states. Name three.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2, 4

Original Item: What were the original 13 states?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What happened at the Constitutional Convention?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: When was the Constitution written?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: When was the Constitution drafted?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: When was the Constitution drafted?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: In what year was the Constitution written?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution.
 Name one of the writers.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one of the writers of the Federalist Papers.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one of the writers of the Federalist Papers.

Re-trial Item: The Federalist Papers were a group of essays supporting the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial			✓		

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who is the “Father of Our Country”?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is called the “Father of Our Country”?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is called the “Father of Our Country”?

Re-trial Item: Who was the first President and the “Father of Our Country”?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial				✓	

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: Which President is called the “Father of our Country”?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who was the first President?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who was the first President?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who was the first President?

Re-trial Item: Who was the first President and the “Father of Our Country”?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial				✓	
Re-trial				✓	

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: Who was the first President of the United States?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

E: 1800s

FINAL ITEM: What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning

3 – Eliminated content

5 – Deleted - test design

2 – Linguistic simplicity

4 – Revised - test design

FINAL ITEM: Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one problem that led to the Civil War.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one of the things that Abraham Lincoln did.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one of the things that Abraham Lincoln did.

Re-trial Item: What is one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial			✓		

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Who was President during the Civil War?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: No change.

Original Item: What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What did Susan B. Anthony do?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What did Susan B. Anthony do?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What did Susan B. Anthony do?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

F: Recent American History and Other Important Historical Information

FINAL ITEM: Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
		✓			
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning

3 – Eliminated content

5 – Deleted - test design

2 – Linguistic simplicity

4 – Revised - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who was President during World War I?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who was President during World War I?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who was President during World War I?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Who did the United States fight in World War II?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: The United States fought Japan, Germany, and Italy during which war?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: The United States fought Japan, Germany, and Italy during which war?

Re-trial Item: What countries did the United States fight in World War II?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial			✓		

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Name some countries that were our enemies during World War II.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Which U.S. World War II general later became President?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Which U.S. World War II general later became President?

Re-trial Item: Before becoming President, Eisenhower was a General. What war was he in?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial		✓			

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What was the main concern of the United States during the Cold War?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What was the main concern of the United States during the Cold War?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What movement tried to end racial discrimination?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What major event happened on September 11, 2001 in the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one of the major American Indian tribes in the United States.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one of the major American Indian tribes in the United States.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

G: Geography

FINAL ITEM: Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning

3 – Eliminated content

5 – Deleted - test design

2 – Linguistic simplicity

4 – Revised - test design

FINAL ITEM: What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What ocean is on the west coast of the United States?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What ocean is on the west coast of the United States?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Not applicable.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial					✓
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Note: Due to the similar grammatical structure and vocabulary between this item and the previous one, this item was not piloted. This decision was informed by the advice of the TAG. Understanding basic geography is a prerequisite to understanding history. Without basic knowledge, it would be impossible for an applicant to fully understand major phenomena in U.S. history.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Name one U.S. territory.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one U.S. territory.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one U.S. territory.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Name one state that borders Canada.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one state that borders Canada.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one state that borders Canada.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Name one state that borders Mexico.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one state that borders on Mexico.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one state that borders on Mexico.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is the capital of the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the capital of the U.S.?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the capital of the U.S.?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial				✓	
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Where is the Statue of Liberty?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Where is the Statue of Liberty?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Where is the Statue of Liberty?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

H: Symbols

FINAL ITEM: Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Why does the flag have 13 stripes?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2

Original Item: What do the stripes on the flag represent?

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Why does the flag have 50 stars?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Why does the flag have 50 stars?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Why does the flag have 50 stars?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial				✓	
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: What do the stars on the flag mean?

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: What is the name of the national anthem?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the name of the National Anthem?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the name of the National Anthem?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: What is the national anthem of the United States?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

I: Holidays

FINAL ITEM: When do we celebrate Independence Day?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: When do we celebrate Independence Day?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: When do we celebrate Independence Day?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial				✓	
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2

Original Item: What do we celebrate on the 4th of July?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

FINAL ITEM: Name two national U.S. holidays.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name two national U.S. holidays.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name two national U.S. holidays.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial				✓	
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

Deleted Items

DELETED ITEM: Name one important idea found in the Declaration of Independence.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one important idea found in the Declaration of Independence.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one important idea found in the Declaration of Independence.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2, 3

Original Item: What are some of the basic beliefs of the Declaration of Independence?

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What do we call changes to the Constitution?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What do we call changes to the Constitution?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What do we call changes to the Constitution?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 3

Original Item: What do we call changes to the Constitution?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What are the three branches of our government?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What are the three branches or parts of the government?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What are the three branches or parts of the government?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2, 3

Original Item: What are the three branches of our government?

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: How many U.S. Senators does each state have?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How many U.S. Senators does each state have?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How many U.S. Senators does each state have?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial				✓	
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2, 3

Original Item: Why are there 100 Senators in the United States Senate?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Who does a U.S. Representative represent?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who does a U.S. Representative represent?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who does a U.S. Representative represent?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What decides each state’s number of U.S. Representatives?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What decides each state’s number of U.S. Representatives?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What decides each state’s number of U.S. Representatives?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Why do we have three branches of government?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Why do we have three branches of government?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Why do we have three branches of government?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: How many branches are there in the United States government?

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: How old must a President be?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How old must a President be?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How old must a President be?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: To become President of the United States, what must the person be at birth?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: To become President of the United States, what must the person be at birth?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: To become President of the United States, what must the person be at birth?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2, 3, 5

Original Item: What are some of the requirements to be eligible to become President?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Who is the President now?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the President now?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the President now?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial				✓	
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2, 3

Original Item: Who is the President of the United States today?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Who is the Vice President now?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Vice President now?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Vice President now?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2, 5

Original Item: Who is the Vice President of the United States today?

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: How many full terms can a President serve?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How many full terms can a President serve?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: How many full terms can a President serve?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial				✓	
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 3

Original Item: How many full terms can a President serve?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What is a veto?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is a veto?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is a veto?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What Cabinet-level agency advises the President on foreign policy?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What Cabinet-level agency advises the President on foreign policy?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What Cabinet-level agency advises the President on foreign policy?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Who confirms Supreme Court justices?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who confirms Supreme Court justices?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who confirms Supreme Court justices?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 5

Original Item: Who nominates judges for the Supreme Court?

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Who nominates justices to the Supreme Court?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who nominates justices to the Supreme Court?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who nominates justices to the Supreme Court?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3

Original Item: Who nominates judges for the Supreme Court?

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What does it mean that the U.S. Constitution is a constitution of *limited powers*?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What does it mean that the U.S. Constitution is a constitution of *limited powers*?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What does it mean that the U.S. Constitution is a constitution of *limited powers*?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What is the majority political party in the House of Representatives now?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the majority political party in the House of Representatives now?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the majority political party in the House of Representatives now?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What is the political party of the majority in the Senate now?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the political party of the majority in the Senate now?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the political party of the majority in the Senate now?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Who is the Senate Majority Leader now?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Senate Majority Leader now?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Senate Majority Leader now?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Who is the Secretary of State now?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Secretary of State now?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Secretary of State now?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Who is the Attorney General now?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Attorney General now?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who is the Attorney General now?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Is the current President in his first or second term?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Is the current President in his first or second term?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Is the current President in his first or second term?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial				✓	
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What is self-government?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is self-government?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is self-government?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Who governs the people in a self-governed country?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who governs the people in a self-governed country?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Who governs the people in a self-governed country?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What are “inalienable rights”?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What are “inalienable rights”?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What are “inalienable rights”?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Where did most of America’s colonists come from before the Revolution?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Where did most of America’s colonists come from before the Revolution?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Where did most of America’s colonists come from before the Revolution?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Why were the colonists upset with the British government?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Why were the colonists upset with the British government?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Why were the colonists upset with the British government?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What group of essays supported passage of the U.S. Constitution?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What group of essays supported passage of the U.S. Constitution?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What group of essays supported passage of the U.S. Constitution?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What country sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What country sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What country sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: In 1803, the United States bought a large amount of land from France. Where was that land?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: In 1803, the United States bought a large amount of land from France. Where was that land?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: In 1803, the United States bought a large amount of land from France. Where was that land?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What did the abolitionists try to end before the Civil War?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What did the abolitionists try to end before the Civil War?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What did the abolitionists try to end before the Civil War?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What international organization was established after World War II (WWII) to keep the world at peace?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What international organization was established after World War II (WWII) to keep the world at peace?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What international organization was established after World War II (WWII) to keep the world at peace?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 5

Original Item: Name one of the purposes of the United Nations.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What alliance of North American and European countries was created during the Cold War?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What alliance of North American and European countries was created during the Cold War?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What alliance of North American and European countries was created during the Cold War?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream for America. What was his dream?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream for America. What was his dream?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream for America. What was his dream?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 2, 3

Original Item: Who was Martin Luther King, Jr.?

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What country is on the northern border of the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What country is on the northern border of the United States?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What country is on the northern border of the United States?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Where is the Grand Canyon?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Where is the Grand Canyon?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Where is the Grand Canyon?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What country is on the southern border of the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What country is on the southern border of the United States?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What country is on the southern border of the United States?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Name one large mountain range in the United States.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one large mountain range in the United States.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name one large mountain range in the United States.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: What is the tallest mountain in the United States?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the tallest mountain in the United States?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
			✓	

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: What is the tallest mountain in the United States?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial	✓				
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Name the state that is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name the state that is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Name the state that is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial		✓			
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 1, 3, 5

Original Item: Not applicable.

Coding System

1 – Added meaning
 2 – Linguistic simplicity

3 – Eliminated content
 4 – Revised - test design

5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: Why do we have 13 stripes on the flag?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Why do we have 13 stripes on the flag?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: Why do we have 13 stripes on the flag?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2, 3

Original Item: What do the stripes on the flag represent?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

DELETED ITEM: On the Fourth of July, we celebrate independence from what country?

PILOT STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: On the Fourth of July, we celebrate independence from what country?

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High
				✓

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY RESULTS:

Trial Item: On the Fourth of July, we celebrate independence from what country?

Re-trial Item: Not applicable.

Pass Rate	Low	Medium Low	Medium High	High	N/A
Trial			✓		
Re-trial					✓

RATIONALE FOR CHANGE:

Implementation Code: 2, 3, 5

Original Item: Independence Day celebrates independence from whom?

Coding System

- 1 – Added meaning
- 2 – Linguistic simplicity

- 3 – Eliminated content
- 4 – Revised - test design

- 5 – Deleted - test design

Appendix A
Civics (History and Government) Items for the Pilot Naturalization Test

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A: Principles of American Democracy

1. Name one important idea found in the Declaration of Independence.
2. What is the supreme law of the land?
3. What does the Constitution do?
4. What does “We the People” mean in the Constitution?
5. What do we call changes to the Constitution?
6. What is an amendment?
7. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
8. Name one right or freedom from the First Amendment.
9. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
10. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
11. What does freedom of religion mean?
12. What type of economic system does the U.S. have?

B: System of Government

13. What are the three branches or parts of the government?
14. Name one branch or part of the government.
15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?
16. Who makes federal laws?
17. What are the two parts of the United States Congress?
18. How many United States Senators are there?
19. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?

Naturalization Test Redesign Project
Civics Item Selection Analysis

20. Name your state's two U.S. Senators.
21. How many U.S. Senators does each state have?
22. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?
23. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?
24. Name your U.S. Representative.
25. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
26. Who does a U.S. Representative represent?
27. What decides each state's number of U.S. Representatives?
28. How is each state's number of Representatives decided?
29. Why do we have three branches of government?
30. Name one example of checks and balances.
31. We elect a President for how many years?
32. How old must a President be?
33. To become President of the United States, what must the person be at birth?
34. Who is the President now?
35. What is the name of the President of the United States?
36. Who is the Vice President now?
37. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States?
38. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
39. Who becomes President if both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve?
40. Who is the Commander-in-Chief of the military?
41. How many full terms can a President serve?

Naturalization Test Redesign Project
Civics Item Selection Analysis

42. Who signs bills to become laws?
43. Who vetoes bills?
44. What is a veto?
45. What does the President's Cabinet do?
46. Name two Cabinet-level positions.
47. What Cabinet-level agency advises the President on foreign policy?
48. What does the judicial branch do?
49. Who confirms Supreme Court justices?
50. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?
51. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
52. Who nominates justices to the Supreme Court?
53. Name one thing only the federal government can do.
54. What is one thing a state government can do?
55. What does it mean that the U.S. Constitution is a constitution of *limited powers*?
56. Who is the Governor of your state?
57. What is the capital (or capital city) of your state?
58. What are the two major political parties in the U.S. today?
59. What is the highest court in the U.S.?
60. What is the majority political party in the House of Representatives now?
61. What is the political party of the majority in the Senate now?
62. What is the political party of the President now?
63. Who is the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?
64. Who is the Senate Majority Leader now?

Naturalization Test Redesign Project
Civics Item Selection Analysis

65. In what month are general presidential elections held in the United States?
66. When must all males register for the Selective Service?
67. Who is the Secretary of State now?
68. Who is the Attorney General now?
69. Is the current President in his first or second term?

C: Rule of Law

70. What is self-government?
71. Who governs the people in a self-governed country?
72. What is the “rule of law”?
73. What are “inalienable rights”?

D: Rights and Responsibilities

74. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.
75. Name one responsibility that is only for United States citizens.
76. Name two rights that are only for United States citizens.
77. Name two rights of everyone living in the U.S.
78. What is the Pledge of Allegiance?
79. Name one promise you make when you say the Oath of Allegiance.
80. Who can vote in the U.S. presidential elections?
81. Name two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy.
82. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?
83. Name two of the natural, or inalienable, rights in the Declaration of Independence.

AMERICAN HISTORY

A: Colonial and Independence

84. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
85. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
86. Name one reason why the colonists came to America.
87. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
88. Why did the colonists fight the British?
89. When was the Constitution drafted?
90. There are 13 original states. Name three.
91. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?
92. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
93. Where did most of America's colonists come from before the Revolution?
94. Why were the colonists upset with the British government?
95. Name one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for.
96. Who is called the "Father of Our Country"?
97. Who was the first President?
98. Name one of the writers of the Federalist Papers.
99. What group of essays supported passage of the U.S. Constitution?

B: 1800s

100. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.
101. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
102. What country sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States?
103. In 1803, the United States bought a large amount of land from France. Where was that land?

Naturalization Test Redesign Project
Civics Item Selection Analysis

- 104. Name one of the things that Abraham Lincoln did.
- 105. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.
- 106. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.
- 107. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
- 108. What did the abolitionists try to end before the Civil War?
- 109. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

**C: Recent American History and Other Important
Historical Information**

- 110. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.
- 111. Who was President during World War I?
- 112. The United States fought Japan, Germany, and Italy during which war?
- 113. What was the main concern of the United States during the Cold War?
- 114. What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?
- 115. What international organization was established after World War II (WWII) to keep the world at peace?
- 116. What alliance of North America and European countries was created during the Cold War?
- 117. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?
- 118. Which U.S. World War II general later became President?
- 119. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?
- 120. Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream for America. What was his dream?
- 121. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?
- 122. Name one of the major American Indian tribes in the United States.

INTEGRATED CIVICS

A: Geography

123. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.
124. What ocean is on the west coast of the United States?
125. What country is on the northern border of the United States?
126. Where is the Grand Canyon?
127. Where is the Statue of Liberty?
128. What country is on the southern border of the United States?
129. Name one large mountain range in the United States.
130. What is the tallest mountain in the United States?
131. Name one U.S. territory.
132. Name the state that is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.
133. Name one state that borders Canada.
134. Name one state that borders on Mexico.
135. What is the capital of the U.S.?

B: Symbols

136. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
137. Why do we have 13 stripes on the flag?
138. Why does the flag have 50 stars?
139. What is the name of the National Anthem?

C: Holidays

140. On the Fourth of July we celebrate independence from what country?

141. When do we celebrate Independence Day?

142. Name two national U.S. holidays.

Appendix B
Final Civics (History and Government) Items for the
Redesigned Naturalization Test

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A: Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land?
2. What does the Constitution do?
3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?
4. What is an amendment?
5. What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?
6. What is one right or freedom from the First Amendment?
7. How many amendments does the Constitution have?
8. What did the Declaration of Independence do?
9. What are two rights in the Declaration of Independence?
10. What is freedom of religion?
11. What is the economic system in the United States?
12. What is the “rule of law”?

B: System of Government

13. Name one branch or part of the government.
14. What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?
15. Who is in charge of the executive branch?
16. Who makes federal laws?
17. What are the two parts of the U.S. Congress?
18. How many U.S. Senators are there?

Naturalization Test Redesign Project
Civics Item Selection Analysis

19. We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?
20. Who is one of your state's U.S. Senators?
21. The House of Representatives has how many voting members?
22. We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?
23. Name your U.S. Representative.
24. Who does a U.S. Senator represent?
25. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?
26. We elect a President for how many years?
27. In what month do we vote for President?
28. What is the name of the President of the United States now?
29. What is the name of the Vice President of the United States now?
30. If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
31. If both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve, who becomes President?
32. Who is the Commander in Chief of the military?
33. Who signs bills to become laws?
34. Who vetoes bills?
35. What does the President's Cabinet do?
36. What are two Cabinet-level positions?
37. What does the judicial branch do?
38. What is the highest court in the United States?
39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?

Naturalization Test Redesign Project
Civics Item Selection Analysis

41. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the federal government. What is one power of the federal government?
42. Under our Constitution, some powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?
43. Who is the Governor of your state?
44. What is the capital of your state?
45. What are the two major political parties in the United States?
46. What is the political party of the President now?
47. What is the name of the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?

C: Rights and Responsibilities

48. There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.
49. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?
50. What are two rights only for United States citizens?
51. What are two rights of everyone living in the United States?
52. What do we show loyalty to when we say the Pledge of Allegiance?
53. What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?
54. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?
55. What are two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy?
56. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?
57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?

AMERICAN HISTORY

A: Colonial Period and Independence

58. What is one reason colonists came to America?
59. Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?
60. What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?
61. Why did the colonists fight the British?
62. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
63. When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?
64. There were 13 original states. Name three.
65. What happened at the Constitutional Convention?
66. When was the Constitution written?
67. The Federalist Papers supported the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.
68. What is one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for?
69. Who is the “Father of Our Country”?
70. Who was the first President?

B: 1800s

71. What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?
72. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.
73. Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.
74. Name one problem that led to the Civil War.
75. What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?
76. What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?
77. What did Susan B. Anthony do?

**C: Recent American History and Other Important
Historical Information**

78. Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.
79. Who was President during World War I?
80. Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?
81. Who did the United States fight in World War II?
82. Before he was President, Eisenhower was a general. What war was he in?
83. During the Cold War, what was the main concern of the United States?
84. What movement tried to end racial discrimination?
85. What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?
86. What major event happened on September 11, 2001 in the United States?
87. Name one American Indian tribe in the United States.

INTEGRATED CIVICS

A: Geography

88. Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.
89. What ocean is on the West Coast of the United States?
90. What ocean is on the East Coast of the United States?
91. Name one U.S. territory.
92. Name one state that borders Canada.
93. Name one state that borders Mexico.
94. What is the capital of the United States?
95. Where is the Statue of Liberty?

Naturalization Test Redesign Project
Civics Item Selection Analysis

B: Symbols

- 96. Why does the flag have 13 stripes?
- 97. Why does the flag have 50 stars?
- 98. What is the name of the national anthem?

C: Holidays

- 99. When do we celebrate Independence Day?
- 100. Name two national U.S. holidays.

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Note

The reading and writing items have been redacted from this report. Although the vocabulary that is contained within individual test items will be released to the public, actual reading and writing test items will not.

Table 2.1: USCIS District Offices Sampled, with Key Characteristics

Number	Office	Region	Average number of applications processed per year	Average number of applications processed per month
1	Albany	Northeast	1,547	129
2	Boston	Northeast	15,683	1,307
3	Kansas City	Midwest	3,540	295
4	Charleston	South	146	12
5	El Paso	South	2,732	228
6	San Antonio	South	6,752	563
7	Miami	South	30,413	2,534
8	Denver	West	6,198	516
9	Tucson	West	1,878	156
10	Yakima	West	302	25
Total			69,191	5,765

Table 2.2: Age of Current Applicants, by Participation Status

Age	Participated		Did not participate	
	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage*</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage **</i>
18–24 years	1,018	15.5	3,831	11.0
25–39 years	3,080	47.0	13,085	37.6
40–49 years	1,465	22.4	6,942	20.0
50–64 years	804	12.3	6,653	19.1
65+ years	187	2.9	4,278	12.3
Total	6,554	100	34,789	100

* excludes 218 cases for which A-numbers were missing

** excludes 452 cases for which A-numbers were missing

Table 2.3: Gender of Current Applicants, by Participation Status

Gender	Participated		Did not participate	
	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage*</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage**</i>
Female	3,500	53.4	20,000	57.5
Male	3,054	46.6	14,785	42.5
Total	6,554	100	34,785	100

* excludes 218 cases for which A-numbers were missing

** excludes 456 cases for which A-numbers were missing

Table 2.4: Race of Current Applicants, by Participation Status

Race	Participated		Did Not Participate	
	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage*</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage**</i>
White	3,801	59.0	22,005	64.7
Black	885	13.7	4,947	14.5
Asian	1,298	20.1	5,001	14.7
American Indian/Alaska Native	9	.1	57	.2
Other	456	7.1	2,021	5.9
Total	6,449	100	34,031	100

* excludes 323 cases for which A-numbers were missing

** excludes 1,210 cases for which A-numbers were missing

Table 2.5: Geographic Region of Birth of Current Applicants, by Participation Status

Region	Participated		Did not participate	
	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage</i> *	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage</i> **
North America	167	2.6	298	.9
Central America	1,587	24.7	8,927	26.2
South America	864	13.5	4,261	12.5
Caribbean	1,116	17.4	11,051	32.4
Europe	859	13.4	2,926	8.6
Asia	1,403	21.8	5,131	15.0
Africa	402	6.3	1,495	4.4
Oceania	25	.4	37	.1
Total	6,423	100	34,126	100

* excludes 349 cases for which A-numbers were missing

** excludes 1,115 cases for which A-numbers were missing

Table 2.6: Age of Prospective Applicants

Age	N	Percentage*
18–24 years	89	7.8
25–39 years	375	32.8
40–49 years	225	19.7
50–64 years	255	22.3
65+ years	200	17.5
Total	1,144	100

* excludes 85 cases for which age information was not provided

Table 2.7: Gender of Prospective Applicants

Gender	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage*</i>
Female	785	68.8
Male	356	31.2
Total	1,141	100

* excludes 88 cases for which gender information was not provided

Table 2.8: Region of Birth of Prospective Applicants

Region	N	Percentage*
North America	1	0.1
Central America	448	38.8
South America	63	5.5
Caribbean	58	5.0
Europe	69	6.0
Asia	407	35.2
Africa	110	9.5
Oceania	0	0.0
Total	1,156	100

* excludes 73 cases for which geographic region information was not provided

Table 2.9: Number of Years Prospective Applicants Have Lived in the U.S.

Years Living in the U.S.	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Fewer than 5 years	416	33.9
5–10 years	465	37.8
11–20 years	261	21.2
More than 20 years	87	7.1
Total	1,229	100

Table 2.10: NRS Level of Prospective Applicants

NRS Level	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage*</i>
Beginning	63	9.7
Low Beginning	69	10.6
High Beginning	120	18.5
Low Intermediate	132	20.3
High Intermediate	119	18.3
Advanced	146	22.5
Total	649	100

* excludes 580 cases for which NRS level information was not provided

Table 4.1: Observed Pilot Test Administrations, by Test Site¹

Test Site	Number of observed interviews	Number of participants taking pilot test
Albany	7	6
Boston	9	6
Charleston	4	2
Denver	12	7
El Paso	13	8
Kansas City	12	5
Miami	15	11
San Antonio	7	7
Tucson	8	7
Total	87	59

¹ No observations were conducted in Yakima because of a scheduling conflict.

Table 4.2: Item Properties of New Civics Test Items for Current Applicants

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Item discrimination	Flag
1	Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?	524	96.6	0.24	*
2	Name one of the writers of the Federalist Papers.	524	68.1	0.43	□
3	Name two rights that are only for United States citizens.	523	93.9	0.39	◆
4	Who is the President now?	580	99.5	0.09	*
5	Who makes federal laws?	524	94.1	0.24	◆*
6	Who signs bills to become laws?	522	98.9	0.27	
7	What are the two parts of the United States Congress?	521	87.7	0.55	●
8	What is the political party of the majority in the Senate now?	519	88.8	0.56	●
9	What is the majority political party in the House of Representatives now?	518	87.6	0.58	●
10	What do we call changes to the Constitution?	518	95.8	0.35	
11	What are the three branches or parts of the government?	495	97.2	0.38	
12	Name one important idea found in the Declaration of Independence.	495	82.2	0.46	⌘
13	Name two Cabinet-level positions.	495	80.6	0.51	⌘
14	To become President of the United States, what must the person be at birth?	495	96.8	0.42	
15	Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.	495	91.9	0.44	◆
16	What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?	494	96.0	0.32	
17	Name two rights of everyone living in the U.S.	492	89.6	0.46	●
18	The House of Representatives has how many voting members?	547	93.1	0.42	◆
19	Who is the Vice President now?	546	97.8	0.35	
20	Is the current President in his first or second term?	488	98.0	0.31	
21	Name one problem that led to the Civil War.	491	84.3	0.58	⌘
22	What are “inalienable rights”?	491	69.7	0.59	□
23	Who becomes President if both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve?	549	93.4	0.37	◆
24	What is the capital (or capital city) of your state?	492	98.8	0.23	*
25	How many United States Senators are there?	491	96.7	0.35	
26	What is the name of the National Anthem?	491	91.4	0.36	◆
27	What does it mean that the U.S. Constitution is a constitution of limited powers?	490	65.1	0.60	□
28	Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?	489	74.6	0.57	○
29	Who is the Secretary of State now?	489	82.0	0.57	⌘
30	What is an amendment?	490	88.0	0.51	●
31	What country sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States?	485	86.6	0.55	●
32	Name your U.S. Representative.	484	65.5	0.42	□

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Item discrimination	Flag
33	Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.	890	85.7	0.59	●
34	Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?	485	89.7	0.34	●
35	We elect a President for how many years?	485	98.8	0.16	*
36	In 1803, the United States bought a large amount of land from France. Where was that land?	484	87.6	0.59	●
37	Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?	540	78.7	0.32	○
38	Name two of the natural, or inalienable, rights in the Declaration of Independence.	482	61.8	0.44	□
39	Name the state that is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.	482	91.5	0.55	◆
40	What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?	483	96.7	0.33	
41	Name one reason why the colonists came to America?	480	95.2	0.45	
42	What is the Pledge of Allegiance?	480	75.2	0.53	○
43	How many justices are on the Supreme Court?	536	91.6	0.46	◆
44	Why do we have 13 stripes on the flag?	536	99.1	0.29	
45	How many amendments does the Constitution have?	480	94.2	0.35	◆
46	Which U.S. World War II general later became President?	480	65.2	0.56	□
47	Who was the first President?	536	99.3	0.15	*
48	What happened at the Constitutional Convention?	477	75.9	0.64	○
49	Name one state that borders on Mexico.	480	95.2	0.46	
50	How many full terms can a President serve?	480	97.3	0.32	
51	What movement tried to end racial discrimination?	464	76.5	0.57	○
52	Name one of the major American Indian tribes in the United States.	464	85.8	0.55	●
53	What is self-government?	464	76.9	0.64	○
54	When do we celebrate Independence Day?	464	99.8	0.14	*
55	In what month are general presidential elections held in the United States?	464	98.3	0.32	
56	Name one right or freedom from the First Amendment.	464	95.7	0.42	
57	How is each state's number of Representatives decided?	811	78.3	0.66	○
58	Name one responsibility that is only for United States citizens.	462	96.3	0.29	
59	Who is the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?	462	76.4	0.58	○
60	What does the judicial branch do?	461	84.2	0.42	⌘
61	Name one U.S. territory.	809	81.0	0.63	⌘
62	Why does the flag have 13 stripes?	462	98.7	0.16	*
63	What does freedom of religion mean?	808	89.9	0.54	●
64	Name one thing only the federal government can do.	462	77.7	0.57	○
65	What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?	462	84.0	0.29	⌘
66	When must all males register for the Selective Service?	462	95.0	0.44	

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Item discrimination	Flag
67	What are the two major political parties in the U.S. today?	517	97.3	0.44	
68	What country is on the northern border of the United States?	461	92.4	0.55	◆
69	When was the Constitution drafted?	460	78.0	0.37	○
70	Who is the Senate Majority Leader now?	460	59.1	0.55	□
71	Where did most of America's colonists come from before the Revolution?	870	84.7	0.64	⌘
72	What did the Declaration of Independence do?	464	79.5	0.56	○
73	Why did the colonists fight the British?	465	75.9	0.62	○
74	Name one example of checks and balances.	463	71.9	0.67	○
75	Who can vote in the U.S. presidential elections?	465	93.8	0.39	◆
76	When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?	465	87.7	0.54	●
77	When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?	465	89.7	0.35	●
78	What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?	465	88.0	0.65	●
79	What country is on the southern border of the United States?	464	93.1	0.52	◆
80	Where is the Grand Canyon?	462	82.5	0.61	⌘
81	What ocean is on the west coast of the United States?	437	94.7	0.49	◆
82	Name one large mountain range in the United States.	437	86.0	0.52	●
83	What does the President's Cabinet do?	436	91.5	0.49	◆
84	Who does a U.S. Representative represent?	437	79.9	0.63	○
85	What decides each state's number of U.S. Representatives?	437	84.7	0.68	⌘
86	What group of essays supported passage of the U.S. Constitution?	436	57.6	0.57	□
87	Name two national U.S. holidays.	437	99.1	0.31	
88	What is the capital of the U.S.?	492	98.4	0.25	
89	Why were the colonists upset with the British government?	433	84.1	0.69	⌘
90	What was the main concern of the United States during the Cold War?	433	79.2	0.67	○
91	What is the "rule of law"?	428	70.3	0.49	○
92	What is the tallest mountain in the United States?	428	68.7	0.59	□
93	Name your state's two U.S. Senators.	485	83.5	0.39	⌘
94	The United States fought Japan, Germany, and Italy during which war?	430	94.4	0.35	◆
95	Name two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy.	430	83.7	0.61	⌘
96	Who does a U.S. Senator represent?	428	88.8	0.46	●
97	Name one branch or part of the government.	430	97.9	0.33	
98	Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream for America. What was his dream?	429	94.6	0.38	◆
99	What is the political party of the President now?	427	95.3	0.42	
100	Who is the Commander-in-Chief of the military?	428	96.0	0.33	

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Item discrimination	Flag
101	There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.	426	91.1	0.50	◆
102	Who is the Attorney General now?	426	70.4	0.57	○
103	What is a veto?	426	87.1	0.63	●
104	What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?	427	93.9	0.38	◆
105	We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?	484	96.1	0.27	
106	Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.	483	87.2	0.57	●
107	What does the Constitution do?	424	79.7	0.41	○
108	Name one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for.	422	71.3	0.66	○
109	What is the supreme law of the land?	481	94.6	0.36	◆
110	What did Susan B. Anthony do?	767	74.6	0.67	○
111	Name one of the things that Abraham Lincoln did.	411	90.8	0.41	◆
112	If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?	412	99.0	0.28	
113	Why does the flag have 50 stars?	412	99.8	0.29	
114	What Cabinet-level agency advises the President on foreign policy?	411	69.1	0.54	□
115	What is the name of the Vice President of the United States?	468	98.9	0.25	
116	What is one thing a state government can do?	411	80.8	0.52	⌘
117	Who vetoes bills?	468	94.2	0.40	◆
118	How many U.S. Senators does each state have?	412	97.8	0.38	
119	How old must a President be?	412	96.1	0.36	
120	There are 13 original states. Name three.	410	96.8	0.22	*
121	What alliance of North America and European countries was created during the Cold War?	713	68.7	0.68	□
122	Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.	370	93.5	0.57	◆
123	Who is called the “Father of Our Country”?	370	98.4	0.16	*
124	Why do we have three branches of government?	423	86.5	0.65	●
125	Who was President during World War I?	367	68.1	0.51	□
126	What international organization was established after World War II (WWII) to keep the world at peace?	369	86.7	0.59	●
127	Name one promise you make when you say the Oath of Allegiance.	368	90.5	0.57	◆
128	Who nominates justices to the Supreme Court?	370	95.1	0.26	
129	Who is in charge of the executive branch?	369	94.9	0.37	◆
130	Name one state that borders Canada.	369	94.6	0.43	◆
131	What does “We the People” mean in the Constitution?	355	74.6	0.59	○
132	What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?	355	83.4	0.61	⌘
133	What is the name of the President of the United States?	355	100	1.00	
134	What did the abolitionists try to end before the Civil War?	355	89.0	0.52	●

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Item discrimination	Flag
135	We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?	355	92.7	0.31	◆
136	Who governs the people in a self-governed country?	700	79.6	0.69	○
137	Who confirms Supreme Court justices?	354	70.6	0.59	○
138	What is the highest court in the U.S.?	353	98.9	0.11	*
139	Where is the Statue of Liberty?	407	94.3	0.31	◆
140	Who is the Governor of your state?	351	93.7	0.35	◆
141	What type of economic system does the U.S. have?	346	81.5	0.71	⌘
142	On the Fourth of July we celebrate independence from what country?	348	98.6	0.23	*

Key	
90.0–94.9%	◆
85.0–89.9%	●
80.0–84.9%	⌘
70.0–79.9%	○
60.0–69.9%	□
< 60.0%	▲
Item Discrimination below 0.25	*

Table 4.3: Summary Statistics for New Civics Test Items for Current Applicants

Civics items	
Percent Correct	N
95.0–100%	42
90.0–94.9%	28
85.0–89.9%	21
80.0–84.9%	16
70.0–79.9%	23
60.0–69.9%	10
< 60.0%	2
Total	142
Item Discrimination below 0.25	12

Table 4.4: Item Properties of New Reading Test Items for Current Applicants

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Item discrimination	Flag
1	[REDACTED]	595	99.5	0.43	
2	[REDACTED]	583	99.0	0.71	
3	[REDACTED]	583	99.3	0.76	
4	[REDACTED]	590	99.3	0.47	
5	[REDACTED]	577	99.3	0.85	
6	[REDACTED]	572	99.3	0.97	
7	[REDACTED]	564	100	1.00	
8	[REDACTED] ¹	1011	99.7	0.48	
9	[REDACTED] ²	1047	99.8	0.25	
10	[REDACTED]	549	99.6	0.30	
11	[REDACTED]	537	99.6	0.59	
12	[REDACTED]	538	99.3	0.63	
13	[REDACTED]	549	98.9	-0.02	*
14	[REDACTED]	542	99.8	0.26	
15	[REDACTED]	538	99.6	0.23	*
16	[REDACTED]	536	99.8	-0.01	*
17	[REDACTED]	525	99.8	0.00	*
18	[REDACTED]	525	99.8	0.00	*
19	[REDACTED]	531	99.8	-0.01	*
20	[REDACTED]	522	99.6	-0.01	*
21	[REDACTED]	520	99.6	-0.01	*
22	[REDACTED]	542	99.3	0.23	*
23	[REDACTED]	523	99.0	0.44	
24	[REDACTED]	530	99.2	0.40	
25	[REDACTED]	509	100	1.00	
26	[REDACTED]	497	99.8	0.33	
27	[REDACTED]	495	99.4	0.25	
28	[REDACTED]	506	99.8	0.24	*
29	[REDACTED]	483	97.9	0.25	
30	[REDACTED]	490	99.2	0.22	*
31	[REDACTED]	489	100	1.00	
32	[REDACTED]	488	99.2	0.38	
33	[REDACTED]	471	99.8	0.29	
34	[REDACTED]	463	99.4	0.48	

¹ This item appeared on more than one form. N, percent correct, and item discrimination for this item are based on combined data.

² This item appeared on more than one form. N, percent correct, and item discrimination for this item are based on combined data.

Key	
90.0–94.9%	◆
85.0–89.9%	●
80.0–84.9%	⌘
70.0–79.9%	○
60.0–69.9%	□
< 60.0%	▲
Item Discrimination below 0.25	*

Table 4.5: Summary Statistics for New Reading Test Items for Current Applicants

Reading Items	
Percent Correct	N
95.0–100%	34
90.0–94.9%	0
85.0–89.9%	0
80.0–84.9%	0
70.0–79.9%	0
60.0–69.9%	0
< 60.0%	0
Total	34
Item Discrimination below 0.25	11

Table 4.6: Item Properties of New Writing Test Items for Current Applicants

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Item discrimination	Flag
1	[REDACTED]	600	95.0	0.34	
2	[REDACTED]	581	95.9	0.37	
3	[REDACTED]	576	96.9	0.43	
4	[REDACTED]	591	96.3	0.42	
5	[REDACTED]	570	97.2	0.65	
6	[REDACTED]	561	95.9	0.67	
7	[REDACTED]	563	97.7	0.35	
8	[REDACTED] ¹	1,011	98.0	0.50	
9	[REDACTED] ²	1,039	96.5	0.39	
10	[REDACTED]	551	96.2	0.36	
11	[REDACTED]	536	97.8	0.57	
12	[REDACTED]	533	97.6	0.68	
13	[REDACTED]	551	96.4	0.39	
14	[REDACTED]	540	97.2	0.55	
15	[REDACTED]	531	98.3	0.41	
16	[REDACTED]	539	95.4	0.35	
17	[REDACTED]	526	97.5	0.47	
18	[REDACTED]	521	97.1	0.52	
19	[REDACTED]	535	95.0	0.13	*
20	[REDACTED]	518	97.9	0.24	*
21	[REDACTED]	511	97.8	0.22	*
22	[REDACTED]	546	97.6	0.44	
23	[REDACTED]	522	95.6	0.61	
24	[REDACTED]	522	96.7	0.60	
25	[REDACTED]	513	96.9	0.19	*
26	[REDACTED]	498	98.8	0.37	
27	[REDACTED]	492	96.5	0.41	
28	[REDACTED]	508	96.5	0.29	
29	[REDACTED]	480	97.1	0.44	
30	[REDACTED]	496	97.2	0.18	*
31	[REDACTED]	488	97.3	0.13	*
32	[REDACTED]	483	97.7	0.34	
33	[REDACTED]	482	94.0	0.48	◆
34	[REDACTED]	470	94.5	0.61	◆

¹ This item appeared on more than one form. N, percent correct, and item discrimination for this item are based on combined data.

² This item appeared on more than one form. N, percent correct, and item discrimination for this item are based on combined data.

Key	
90.0–94.9%	◆
85.0–89.9%	●
80.0–84.9%	⌘
70.0–79.9%	○
60.0–69.9%	□
< 60.0%	▲
Item Discrimination below 0.25	*

Table 4.7: Summary Statistics for New Writing Test Items for Current Applicants

Writing items	
Percent correct	N
95.0–100%	32
90.0–94.9%	2
85.0–89.9%	0
80.0–84.9%	0
70.0–79.9%	0
60.0–69.9%	0
< 60.0%	0
Total	34
Item Discrimination below 0.25	6

Table 4.8: Item Properties of New Civics Test Items for Prospective Applicants

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Flag
1	Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?	155	63.9	●
2	Name one of the writers of the Federalist Papers.	141	8.5	□
3	Name two rights that are only for United States citizens.	137	34.3	○
4	Who is the President now?	155	90.3	
5	Who makes federal laws?	138	61.6	●
6	Who signs bills to become laws?	139	74.1	◆
7	What are the two parts of the United States Congress?	130	33.1	○
8	What is the political party of the majority in the Senate now?	130	53.1	●
9	What is the majority political party in the House of Representatives now?	152	43.4	⌘
10	What do we call changes to the Constitution?	152	57.2	●
11	What are the three branches or parts of the government?	124	63.7	●
12	Name one important idea found in the Declaration of Independence.	125	21.6	○
13	Name two Cabinet-level positions.	140	20.0	○
14	To become President of the United States, what must the person be at birth?	118	46.6	⌘
15	Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.	140	43.6	⌘
16	What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?	144	56.3	●
17	Name two rights of everyone living in the U.S.	119	31.9	○
18	The House of Representatives has how many voting members?	130	51.5	●
19	Who is the Vice President now?	129	69.0	◆
20	Is the current President in his first or second term?	124	79.8	◆
21	Name one problem that led to the Civil War.	131	22.1	○
22	What are “inalienable rights”?	136	5.9	□
23	Who becomes President if both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve?	144	52.1	●
24	What is the capital (or capital city) of your state?	161	81.4	
25	How many United States Senators are there?	155	67.1	◆
26	What is the name of the National Anthem?	161	42.9	⌘
27	What does it mean that the U.S. Constitution is a constitution of limited powers?	135	3.7	□
28	Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?	136	21.3	○
29	Who is the Secretary of State now?	159	31.4	○
30	What is an amendment?	138	34.1	○
31	What country sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States?	117	25.6	○
32	Name your U.S. Representative.	118	23.7	○
33	Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.	159	35.2	⌘
34	Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?	116	52.6	●
35	We elect a President for how many years?	139	91.4	
36	In 1803, the United States bought a large amount of land from France. Where was that land?	137	21.2	○
37	Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?	124	39.5	⌘
38	Name two of the natural, or inalienable, rights in the Declaration of Independence.	115	12.2	□
39	Name the state that is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.	125	40.0	⌘
40	What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?	116	74.1	◆

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Flag
41	Name one reason why the colonists came to America?	154	68.2	◆
42	What is the Pledge of Allegiance?	120	10.8	□
43	How many justices are on the Supreme Court?	118	60.2	●
44	Why do we have 13 stripes on the flag?	138	58.0	●
45	How many amendments does the Constitution have?	130	66.9	◆
46	Which U.S. World War II general later became President?	131	15.3	□
47	Who was the first President?	119	89.1	
48	What happened at the Constitutional Convention?	113	8.0	□
49	Name one state that borders on Mexico.	125	61.6	●
50	How many full terms can a President serve?	145	81.4	
51	What movement tried to end racial discrimination?	120	16.7	□
52	Name one of the major American Indian tribes in the United States.	154	42.9	⌘
53	What is self-government?	150	22.7	○
54	When do we celebrate Independence Day?	133	89.5	
55	In what month are general presidential elections held in the United States?	137	73.0	◆
56	Name one right or freedom from the First Amendment.	139	51.1	●
57	How is each state's number of Representatives decided?	154	24.0	○
58	Name one responsibility that is only for United States citizens.	121	57.0	●
59	Who is the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?	122	32.8	○
60	What does the judicial branch do?	121	38.8	⌘
61	Name one U.S. territory.	179	34.1	○
62	Why does the flag have 13 stripes?	147	72.1	◆
63	What does freedom of religion mean?	168	30.4	○
64	Name one thing only the federal government can do.	134	19.4	□
65	What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?	140	41.4	⌘
66	When must all males register for the Selective Service?	136	50.0	●
67	What are the two major political parties in the U.S. today?	158	67.1	◆
68	What country is on the northern border of the United States?	164	65.2	◆
69	When was the Constitution drafted?	145	26.9	○
70	Who is the Senate Majority Leader now?	151	11.3	□
71	Where did most of America's colonists come from before the Revolution?	169	45.6	⌘
72	What did the Declaration of Independence do?	139	30.9	○
73	Why did the colonists fight the British?	149	31.5	○
74	Name one example of checks and balances.	144	16.0	□
75	Who can vote in the U.S. presidential elections?	143	21.0	○
76	When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?	142	51.4	●
77	When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?	137	65.0	◆
78	What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?	135	39.3	⌘
79	What country is on the southern border of the United States?	132	64.4	●
80	Where is the Grand Canyon?	132	37.1	⌘
81	What ocean is on the west coast of the United States?	169	55.6	●
82	Name one large mountain range in the United States.	161	26.1	○
83	What does the President's Cabinet do?	165	32.7	○
84	Who does a U.S. Representative represent?	182	22.5	○
85	What decides each state's number of U.S. Representatives?	165	24.8	○
86	What group of essays supported passage of the U.S. Constitution?	157	9.6	□
87	Name two national U.S. holidays.	166	78.3	◆

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Flag
88	What is the capital of the U.S.?	175	85.7	
89	Why were the colonists upset with the British government?	165	27.3	○
90	What was the main concern of the United States during the Cold War?	164	14.6	□
91	What is the “rule of law”?	165	21.2	○
92	What is the tallest mountain in the United States?	167	18.0	□
93	Name your state’s two U.S. Senators.	175	42.9	⌘
94	The United States fought Japan, Germany, and Italy during which war?	164	62.8	●
95	Name two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy.	182	18.7	□
96	Who does a U.S. Senator represent?	160	20.0	○
97	Name one branch or part of the government.	168	71.4	◆
98	Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream for America. What was his dream?	183	48.1	⌘
99	What is the political party of the President now?	167	64.7	●
100	Who is the Commander-in-Chief of the military?	182	71.4	◆
101	There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.	227	21.6	○
102	Who is the Attorney General now?	234	22.6	○
103	What is a veto?	229	37.6	⌘
104	What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?	228	54.8	●
105	We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?	207	67.6	◆
106	Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.	213	38.5	⌘
107	What does the Constitution do?	228	34.6	○
108	Name one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for.	227	13.7	□
109	What is the supreme law of the land?	207	52.7	●
110	What did Susan B. Anthony do?	262	30.2	○
111	Name one of the things that Abraham Lincoln did.	184	57.1	●
112	If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?	189	66.7	◆
113	Why does the flag have 50 stars?	200	85.5	
114	What Cabinet-level agency advises the President on foreign policy?	197	13.7	□
115	What is the name of the Vice President of the United States?	192	71.4	◆
116	What is one thing a state government can do?	184	21.2	○
117	Who vetoes bills?	178	55.6	●
118	How many U.S. Senators does each state have?	200	76.5	◆
119	How old must a President be?	185	69.2	◆
120	There are 13 original states. Name three.	205	74.6	◆
121	What alliance of North America and European countries was created during the Cold War?	161	18.0	□
122	Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.	175	60.0	●
123	Who is called the “Father of Our Country”?	160	74.4	◆
124	Why do we have three branches of government?	153	30.7	○
125	Who was President during World War I?	159	10.7	□
126	What international organization was established after World War II (WWII) to keep the world at peace?	160	31.9	○
127	Name one promise you make when you say the Oath of Allegiance.	152	26.3	○
128	Who nominates justices to the Supreme Court?	176	61.4	●
129	Who is in charge of the executive branch?	175	52.6	●
130	Name one state that borders Canada.	176	52.8	●

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Flag
131	What does “We the People” mean in the Constitution?	151	13.9	□
132	What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?	144	34.0	○
133	What is the name of the President of the United States?	158	92.4	
134	What did the abolitionists try to end before the Civil War?	151	25.2	○
135	We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?	151	59.6	●
136	Who governs the people in a self-governed country?	184	16.8	□
137	Who confirms Supreme Court justices?	145	11.0	□
138	What is the highest court in the U.S.?	151	70.2	◆
139	Where is the Statue of Liberty?	152	67.1	◆
140	Who is the Governor of your state?	145	60.7	●
141	What type of economic system does the U.S. have?	142	23.9	○
142	On the Fourth of July we celebrate independence from what country?	142	67.6	◆

Key	
65.0–79.9%	◆
50.0–64.9%	●
35.0–49.9%	⌘
20.0–34.9%	○
10.0–19.9%	□
< 10.0%	▲

Table 4.9: Summary Statistics for New Civics Test Items for Prospective Applicants

Civics items	
Percent Correct	N
80.0–100.0%	9
65.0–79.9%	25
50.0–64.9%	30
35.0–49.9%	17
20.0–34.9%	39
10.0–19.9%	17
< 10.0%	5
Total	142

Table 4.10: Item Properties of New Reading Test Items for Prospective Applicants

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Flag
1	[REDACTED]	107	96.3	
2	[REDACTED]	106	98.1	
3	[REDACTED]	106	99.1	
4	[REDACTED]	108	88.9	
5	[REDACTED]	105	99.0	
6	[REDACTED]	105	94.3	
7	[REDACTED]	105	100.0	
8	[REDACTED]	207	95.2	
9	[REDACTED]	207	96.6	
10	[REDACTED]	107	95.3	
11	[REDACTED]	105	98.1	
12	[REDACTED]	105	95.2	
13	[REDACTED]	105	85.7	
14	[REDACTED]	109	97.2	
15	[REDACTED]	106	96.2	
16	[REDACTED]	107	98.1	
17	[REDACTED]	109	96.3	
18	[REDACTED]	106	96.2	
19	[REDACTED]	111	93.7	
20	[REDACTED]	106	96.2	
21	[REDACTED]	106	99.1	
22	[REDACTED]	106	95.3	
23	[REDACTED]	106	97.2	
24	[REDACTED]	107	96.3	
25	[REDACTED]	105	99.0	
26	[REDACTED]	101	99.0	
27	[REDACTED]	106	83.0	
28	[REDACTED]	101	96.0	
29	[REDACTED]	101	74.3	◆
30	[REDACTED]	105	93.3	
31	[REDACTED]	101	97.0	
32	[REDACTED]	100	86.0	
33	[REDACTED]	105	96.2	
34	[REDACTED]	100	92.0	

Key	
65.0–79.9%	◆
50.0–64.9%	●
35.0–49.9%	⌘
20.0–34.9%	○
10.0–19.9%	□
< 10.0%	▲

Table 4.11: Summary Statistics for New Reading Test Items for Prospective Applicants

Reading Items	
<i>Percent Correct</i>	<i>N</i>
80.0–100.0%	33
65.0–79.9%	1
50.0–64.9%	0
35.0–49.9%	0
20.0–34.9%	0
10.0–19.9%	0
< 10.0%	0
Total	34

Table 4.12: Item Properties of New Writing Test Items for Prospective Applicants

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Flag
1	[REDACTED]	276	55.8	●
2	[REDACTED]	131	65.6	◆
3	[REDACTED]	298	81.2	
4	[REDACTED]	283	75.3	◆
5	[REDACTED]	260	81.5	
6	[REDACTED]	139	71.9	◆
7	[REDACTED]	335	72.5	◆
8	[REDACTED]	396	64.9	●
9	[REDACTED]	132	65.9	◆
10	[REDACTED]	229	68.6	◆
11	[REDACTED]	203	68.0	◆
12	[REDACTED]	111	55.0	●
13	[REDACTED]	137	52.6	●
14	[REDACTED]	274	73.0	◆
15	[REDACTED]	242	64.0	●
16	[REDACTED]	245	62.0	●
17	[REDACTED]	288	68.4	◆
18	[REDACTED]	269	68.0	◆
19	[REDACTED]	147	47.6	⌘
20	[REDACTED]	282	81.2	
21	[REDACTED]	152	60.5	●
22	[REDACTED]	294	78.6	◆
23	[REDACTED]	144	56.9	●
24	[REDACTED]	275	77.1	◆
25	[REDACTED]	275	71.3	◆
26	[REDACTED]	291	74.9	◆
27	[REDACTED]	227	34.4	○
28	[REDACTED]	176	45.5	⌘
29	[REDACTED]	285	54.0	●
30	[REDACTED]	204	58.3	●
31	[REDACTED]	271	70.8	◆
32	[REDACTED]	274	66.1	◆
33	[REDACTED]	208	62.0	●
34	[REDACTED]	160	45.0	⌘

Key	
65.0–79.9%	◆
50.0–64.9%	●
35.0–49.9%	⌘
20.0–34.9%	○
10.0–19.9%	□
< 10.0%	▲

Table 4.13: Summary Statistics for New Writing Test Items for Prospective Applicants

Writing items	
<i>Percent correct</i>	<i>N</i>
80.0–100.0%	3
65.0–79.9%	16
50.0–64.9%	11
35.0–49.9%	3
20.0–34.9%	1
10.0–19.9%	0
< 10.0%	0
Total	34

Table 4.14: Correlations Between Current and Prospective Applicants for Civics, Reading, and Writing Items

Item type	Correlation
Civics	.86
Reading	.69
Writing	.43

Table 4.15: Average Percentage of Items Answered Correctly, by Sample

Sample	Civics	Reading	Writing
Current applicants	87.4	99.5	96.8
Prospective applicants	44.5	94.7	64.7
Combined sample of current and prospective applicants	65.9	97.1	80.7

Table 4.16: Item Properties of New Civics Test Items in Combined Sample of Current and Prospective Applicants

Item number	Item text	N combined	Avg. percent correct	Flag
1	Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?	679	80.3	◆
2	Name one of the writers of the Federalist Papers.	665	38.3	□
3	Name two rights that are only for United States citizens.	660	64.1	⌘
4	Who is the President now?	735	94.9	
5	Who makes federal laws?	662	77.9	●
6	Who signs bills to become laws?	661	86.5	◆
7	What are the two parts of the United States Congress?	651	60.4	⌘
8	What is the political party of the majority in the Senate now?	649	71.0	●
9	What is the majority political party in the House of Representatives now?	670	65.5	⌘
10	What do we call changes to the Constitution?	670	76.5	●
11	What are the three branches or parts of the government?	619	80.5	◆
12	Name one important idea found in the Declaration of Independence.	620	51.9	○
13	Name two Cabinet-level positions.	635	50.3	○
14	To become President of the United States, what must the person be at birth?	613	71.7	●
15	Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.	635	67.8	⌘
16	What did Martin Luther King, Jr. do?	638	76.2	●
17	Name two rights of everyone living in the U.S.	611	60.8	⌘
18	The House of Representatives has how many voting members?	677	72.3	●
19	Who is the Vice President now?	675	83.4	◆
20	Is the current President in his first or second term?	612	88.9	◆
21	Name one problem that led to the Civil War.	622	53.2	○
22	What are “inalienable rights”?	627	37.8	□
23	Who becomes President if both the President and the Vice President can no longer serve?	693	72.8	●
24	What is the capital (or capital city) of your state?	653	90.1	
25	How many United States Senators are there?	646	81.9	◆
26	What is the name of the National Anthem?	652	67.2	⌘
27	What does it mean that the U.S. Constitution is a constitution of limited powers?	625	34.4	□
28	Who was President during the Great Depression and World War II?	625	48.0	□
29	Who is the Secretary of State now?	648	56.7	○
30	What is an amendment?	628	61.1	⌘
31	What country sold the Louisiana Territory to the United States?	602	56.1	○
32	Name your U.S. Representative.	602	44.6	□
33	Name the U.S. war between the North and the South.	1049	60.5	⌘
34	Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?	601	71.2	●
35	We elect a President for how many years?	624	95.1	
36	In 1803, the United States bought a large amount of land from France. Where was that land?	621	54.4	○

Item number	Item text	N combined	Avg. percent correct	Flag
37	Who is the Chief Justice of the United States?	664	59.1	○
38	Name two of the natural, or inalienable, rights in the Declaration of Independence.	597	37.0	□
39	Name the state that is in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.	607	65.8	⌘
40	What major event happened on September 11, 2001, in the United States?	599	85.4	◆
41	Name one reason why the colonists came to America?	634	81.7	◆
42	What is the Pledge of Allegiance?	600	43.0	□
43	How many justices are on the Supreme Court?	654	75.9	●
44	Why do we have 13 stripes on the flag?	674	78.6	●
45	How many amendments does the Constitution have?	610	80.6	◆
46	Which U.S. World War II general later became President?	611	40.3	□
47	Who was the first President?	655	94.2	
48	What happened at the Constitutional Convention?	590	42.0	□
49	Name one state that borders on Mexico.	605	78.4	●
50	How many full terms can a President serve?	625	89.4	◆
51	What movement tried to end racial discrimination?	584	46.6	□
52	Name one of the major American Indian tribes in the United States.	618	64.4	⌘
53	What is self-government?	614	49.8	□
54	When do we celebrate Independence Day?	597	94.7	
55	In what month are general presidential elections held in the United States?	601	85.7	◆
56	Name one right or freedom from the First Amendment.	603	73.4	●
57	How is each state's number of Representatives decided?	965	51.2	○
58	Name one responsibility that is only for United States citizens.	583	76.7	●
59	Who is the Speaker of the House of Representatives now?	584	54.6	○
60	What does the judicial branch do?	582	61.5	⌘
61	Name one U.S. territory.	988	57.6	○
62	Why does the flag have 13 stripes?	609	85.4	◆
63	What does freedom of religion mean?	976	60.2	⌘
64	Name one thing only the federal government can do.	596	48.6	□
65	What did the Emancipation Proclamation do?	602	62.7	⌘
66	When must all males register for the Selective Service?	598	72.5	●
67	What are the two major political parties in the U.S. today?	675	82.2	◆
68	What country is on the northern border of the United States?	625	78.8	●
69	When was the Constitution drafted?	605	52.5	○
70	Who is the Senate Majority Leader now?	611	35.2	□
71	Where did most of America's colonists come from before the Revolution?	1039	65.2	⌘
72	What did the Declaration of Independence do?	603	55.2	○
73	Why did the colonists fight the British?	614	53.7	○
74	Name one example of checks and balances.	607	44.0	□
75	Who can vote in the U.S. presidential elections?	608	57.4	○
76	When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?	607	69.6	⌘
77	When was the Declaration of Independence adopted?	602	77.4	●
78	What group of people was taken to America and sold as slaves?	600	63.7	⌘

Item number	Item text	N combined	Avg. percent correct	Flag
79	What country is on the southern border of the United States?	596	78.8	●
80	Where is the Grand Canyon?	594	59.8	○
81	What ocean is on the west coast of the United States?	606	75.2	●
82	Name one large mountain range in the United States.	598	56.1	○
83	What does the President's Cabinet do?	601	62.1	⌘
84	Who does a U.S. Representative represent?	619	51.2	○
85	What decides each state's number of U.S. Representatives?	602	54.8	○
86	What group of essays supported passage of the U.S. Constitution?	593	33.6	□
87	Name two national U.S. holidays.	603	88.7	◆
88	What is the capital of the U.S.?	667	92.1	
89	Why were the colonists upset with the British government?	598	55.7	○
90	What was the main concern of the United States during the Cold War?	597	46.9	□
91	What is the "rule of law"?	593	45.8	□
92	What is the tallest mountain in the United States?	595	43.4	□
93	Name your state's two U.S. Senators.	660	63.2	⌘
94	The United States fought Japan, Germany, and Italy during which war?	594	78.6	●
95	Name two ways that Americans can participate in their democracy.	612	51.2	○
96	Who does a U.S. Senator represent?	588	54.4	○
97	Name one branch or part of the government.	598	84.7	◆
98	Martin Luther King, Jr. had a dream for America. What was his dream?	612	71.4	●
99	What is the political party of the President now?	594	80.0	◆
100	Who is the Commander-in-Chief of the military?	610	83.7	◆
101	There are four amendments to the Constitution about who can vote. Describe one of them.	653	56.4	○
102	Who is the Attorney General now?	660	46.5	□
103	What is a veto?	655	62.4	⌘
104	What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?	655	74.4	●
105	We elect a U.S. Senator for how many years?	691	81.9	◆
106	Name one war fought by the United States in the 1800s.	696	62.9	⌘
107	What does the Constitution do?	652	57.2	○
108	Name one thing Benjamin Franklin is famous for.	649	42.5	□
109	What is the supreme law of the land?	688	73.7	●
110	What did Susan B. Anthony do?	1029	52.4	○
111	Name one of the things that Abraham Lincoln did.	595	74.0	●
112	If the President can no longer serve, who becomes President?	601	82.9	◆
113	Why does the flag have 50 stars?	612	92.7	
114	What Cabinet-level agency advises the President on foreign policy?	608	41.4	□
115	What is the name of the Vice President of the United States?	660	85.2	◆
116	What is one thing a state government can do?	595	51.0	○
117	Who vetoes bills?	646	74.9	●
118	How many U.S. Senators does each state have?	612	87.2	◆

Item number	Item text	N combined	Avg. percent correct	Flag
119	How old must a President be?	597	82.7	◆
120	There are 13 original states. Name three.	615	85.7	◆
121	What alliance of North America and European countries was created during the Cold War?	874	43.4	□
122	Name one of the two longest rivers in the United States.	545	76.8	●
123	Who is called the “Father of Our Country”?	530	86.4	◆
124	Why do we have three branches of government?	576	58.6	○
125	Who was President during World War I?	526	39.4	□
126	What international organization was established after World War II (WWII) to keep the world at peace?	529	59.3	○
127	Name one promise you make when you say the Oath of Allegiance.	520	58.4	○
128	Who nominates justices to the Supreme Court?	546	78.3	●
129	Who is in charge of the executive branch?	544	73.8	●
130	Name one state that borders Canada.	545	73.7	●
131	What does “We the People” mean in the Constitution?	506	44.3	□
132	What territory did the United States buy from France in 1803?	499	58.7	○
133	What is the name of the President of the United States?	513	96.2	
134	What did the abolitionists try to end before the Civil War?	506	57.1	○
135	We elect a U.S. Representative for how many years?	506	76.2	●
136	Who governs the people in a self-governed country?	884	48.2	□
137	Who confirms Supreme Court justices?	499	40.8	□
138	What is the highest court in the U.S.?	504	84.6	◆
139	Where is the Statue of Liberty?	559	80.7	◆
140	Who is the Governor of your state?	496	77.2	●
141	What type of economic system does the U.S. have?	488	52.7	○
142	On the Fourth of July we celebrate independence from what country?	490	83.1	◆

Key	
80.0–89.9%	◆
70.0–79.9%	●
60.0–69.9%	⌘
50.0–59.9%	○
40.0–49.9%	□
< 40.0%	▲

Table 4.17: Summary Statistics for New Civics Test Items in Combined Sample of Current and Prospective Applicants

Civics items	
<i>Percent correct</i>	<i>N</i>
90.0–100.0%	8
80.0–89.9%	27
70.0–79.9%	30
60.0–69.9%	20
50.0–59.9%	31
40.0–49.9%	19
< 40.0%	7
Total	142

Table 4.18: Item Properties of New Reading Test Items in Combined Sample of Current and Prospective Applicants

Item number	Item text	N combined	Avg. percent correct	Flag
1	[REDACTED]	702	97.9	
2	[REDACTED]	689	98.6	
3	[REDACTED]	689	99.2	
4	[REDACTED]	698	94.1	
5	[REDACTED]	682	99.2	
6	[REDACTED]	677	96.8	
7	[REDACTED]	669	100.0	
8	[REDACTED]	1218	97.5	
9	[REDACTED]	1254	98.2	
10	[REDACTED]	656	97.5	
11	[REDACTED]	642	98.9	
12	[REDACTED]	643	97.3	
13	[REDACTED]	654	92.3	
14	[REDACTED]	651	98.5	
15	[REDACTED]	644	97.9	
16	[REDACTED]	643	99.0	
17	[REDACTED]	634	98.1	
18	[REDACTED]	631	98.0	
19	[REDACTED]	642	96.8	
20	[REDACTED]	628	97.9	
21	[REDACTED]	626	99.4	
22	[REDACTED]	648	97.3	
23	[REDACTED]	629	98.1	
24	[REDACTED]	637	97.8	
25	[REDACTED]	614	99.5	
26	[REDACTED]	598	99.4	
27	[REDACTED]	601	91.2	
28	[REDACTED]	607	97.9	
29	[REDACTED]	584	86.1	◆
30	[REDACTED]	595	96.3	
31	[REDACTED]	590	98.5	
32	[REDACTED]	588	92.6	
33	[REDACTED]	576	98.0	
34	[REDACTED]	563	95.7	

Key	
80.0–89.9%	◆
70.0–79.9%	●
60.0–69.9%	⌘
50.0–59.9%	○
40.0–49.9%	□
< 40.0%	▲

Table 4.19: Summary Statistics for New Reading Test Items in Combined Sample of Current and Prospective Applicants

Reading items	
<i>Percent correct</i>	<i>N</i>
90.0–100.0%	33
80.0–89.9%	1
70.0–79.9%	0
60.0–69.9%	0
50.0–59.9%	0
40.0–49.9%	0
< 40.0%	0
Total	34

Table 4.20: Item Properties of New Writing Tests Items in Combined Sample of Current and Prospective Applicants

Item number	Item text	<i>N</i> <i>combined</i>	Avg. percent correct	Flag
1	[REDACTED]	876	75.4	●
2	[REDACTED]	712	80.8	◆
3	[REDACTED]	874	89.1	◆
4	[REDACTED]	874	85.8	◆
5	[REDACTED]	830	89.4	◆
6	[REDACTED]	700	83.9	◆
7	[REDACTED]	898	85.1	◆
8	[REDACTED]	1407	81.5	◆
9	[REDACTED]	1171	81.2	◆
10	[REDACTED]	780	82.4	◆
11	[REDACTED]	739	82.9	◆
12	[REDACTED]	644	76.3	●
13	[REDACTED]	688	74.5	●
14	[REDACTED]	814	85.1	◆
15	[REDACTED]	773	81.2	◆
16	[REDACTED]	784	78.7	●
17	[REDACTED]	814	83.0	◆
18	[REDACTED]	790	82.6	◆
19	[REDACTED]	682	71.3	●
20	[REDACTED]	800	89.6	◆
21	[REDACTED]	663	79.2	●
22	[REDACTED]	840	88.1	◆
23	[REDACTED]	666	76.3	●
24	[REDACTED]	797	86.9	◆
25	[REDACTED]	788	84.1	◆
26	[REDACTED]	789	86.9	◆
27	[REDACTED]	719	65.5	⌘
28	[REDACTED]	684	71.0	●
29	[REDACTED]	765	75.6	●
30	[REDACTED]	700	77.8	●
31	[REDACTED]	759	84.1	◆
32	[REDACTED]	757	81.9	◆
33	[REDACTED]	690	78.0	●
34	[REDACTED]	630	69.8	⌘

Key	
80.0–89.9%	◆
70.0–79.9%	●
60.0–69.9%	⌘
50.0–59.9%	○
40.0–49.9%	□
< 40.0%	▲

Table 4.21: Summary Statistics for New Writing Test Items in Combined Sample of Current and Prospective Applicants

Writing items	
<i>Percent correct</i>	<i>N</i>
90.0–100.0%	0
80.0–89.9%	21
70.0–79.9%	11
60.0–69.9%	2
50.0–59.9%	0
40.0–49.9%	0
< 40.0%	0
Total	34

Table 4.22: Age of Participants in Revised Items Study

Age	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage</i> *
18–24 years	11	5.1
25–39 years	55	25.5
40–49 years	48	22.2
50–64 years	80	37.0
65+ years	22	10.2
Total	216	100

* excludes 36 cases for which age information was not provided

Table 4.23: Geographic Region of Birth of Participants in Revised Items Study

Region	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage</i> *
North America	1	.44
Central America	106	46.3
South America	40	17.5
Caribbean	24	10.5
Europe	21	9.2
Asia	36	15.7
Africa	1	.44
Oceania	0	.00
Total	229	100
* excludes 23 cases for which region of birth information was not provided		

Table 4.24: Gender of Participants in Revised Items Study

Gender	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage</i> *
Female	138	54.8
Male	84	33.3
Total	222	88

* excludes 30 cases for which gender information was not provided

Table 4.25: Number of Years Participants in Revised Items Study Have Lived in the U.S.

Years living in the U.S.	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage</i> *
Fewer than 5 years	68	31.1
5–10 years	48	21.9
11–20 years	71	32.4
More than 20 years	32	14.6
Total	219	100
* excludes 33 cases for which years living in the U.S. was not provided		

Table 4.26: NRS Level of Participants in Revised Items Study

NRS level	<i>N</i>	<i>Percentage</i> *
Beginning	9	4.1
Low Beginning	47	21.6
High Beginning	73	33.5
Low Intermediate	50	22.9
High Intermediate	26	11.9
Advanced	13	6.0
Total	218	100
* excludes 34 cases for which NRS level information was not provided		

Table 4.27: Item Properties of Revised Civics Items

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Flag
1	The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words?	193	52.8	⌘
2	What is the economic system in the U.S.?	194	65.5	●
3	What system of government stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?	192	38.0	□
4	Inalienable rights are natural rights that people are born with. What are two of these rights in the Declaration of Independence?	166	31.3	□
5	Who is one of your state's two United States Senators?	196	73.5	◆
6	What do you call the person who represents your district in Congress?	196	39.3	□
7	Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?	194	54.6	⌘
8	Our Constitution limits powers to the Federal government. What is one power of the Federal government?	193	28.0	□
9	Under our Constitution, powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?	192	37.0	□
10	When do the people vote for President?	194	85.6	
11	Why do we say the Pledge of Allegiance?	189	41.3	○
12	When you become a citizen, what is one promise you make?	188	39.9	□
13	How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?	190	78.9	◆
14	Who was the first President and the "Father of Our Country"?	192	91.1	
15	The Federalist papers were a group of essays supporting the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.	185	56.8	⌘
16	What is one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?	190	54.2	⌘
17	What countries did the United States fight in World War II?	190	71.1	◆
18	Why was the United Nations created?	188	43.6	○
19	Before becoming President, Eisenhower was a General. What war was he in?	189	49.2	○

Key	
70.0–79.9%	◆
60.0–69.9%	●
50.0–59.9%	⌘
40.0–49.9%	○
< 39.9%	□

Table 4.28: Summary Statistics for Revised Civics Items

Civics items	
<i>Percent correct</i>	<i>N</i>
80.0–100%	2
70.0–79.9%	3
60.0–69.9%	1
50.0–59.9%	4
40.0–49.9%	3
< 39.9%	6
Total	19

Table 4.29: Item Properties of Revised Reading Items

Item number	Item text	N	Percent correct	Flag
1	[REDACTED]	201	97.0	
2	[REDACTED]	200	92.5	
3	[REDACTED]	200	99.0	
4	[REDACTED]	200	97.0	
5	[REDACTED]	200	98.5	
6	[REDACTED]	200	98.5	
7	[REDACTED]	200	93.5	
8	[REDACTED]	200	96.5	
9	[REDACTED]	200	99.0	
10	[REDACTED]	200	99.0	
11	[REDACTED]	200	97.5	
12	[REDACTED]	200	92.5	
13	[REDACTED]	151	97.4	
14	[REDACTED]	151	98.7	
15	[REDACTED]	152	96.1	
16	[REDACTED]	50	100	

Key	
70.0–79.9%	◆
60.0–69.9%	●
50.0–59.9%	⌘
40.0–49.9%	○
< 39.9%	□

Table 4.30: Summary Statistics for Revised Reading Items

Reading items	
<i>Percent correct</i>	<i>N</i>
80.0–100%	16
70.0–79.9%	0
60.0–69.9%	0
50.0–59.9%	0
40.0–49.9%	0
< 39.9%	0
Total	16

Table 4.31: Item Properties of Revised Writing Items

Item number	Item text	<i>N</i>	Percent correct	Flag
1	[REDACTED]	218	70.2	◆
2	[REDACTED]	218	80.3	
3	[REDACTED]	220	78.2	◆
4	[REDACTED]	220	75.0	◆
5	[REDACTED]	220	70.0	◆
6	[REDACTED]	205	51.7	⌘
7	[REDACTED]	197	76.6	◆
8	[REDACTED]	198	69.2	●
9	[REDACTED]	196	75.0	◆
10	[REDACTED]	197	74.6	◆
11	[REDACTED]	195	77.4	◆
12	[REDACTED]	196	68.4	●
13	[REDACTED]	178	65.2	●
14	[REDACTED]	112	74.1	◆
15	[REDACTED]	112	56.3	⌘
16	[REDACTED]	53	58.5	⌘

Key	
70.0–79.9%	◆
60.0–69.9%	●
50.0–59.9%	⌘
40.0–49.9%	○
< 39.9%	□

Table 4.32: Summary Statistics for Revised Writing Items

Writing items	
<i>Percent correct</i>	<i>N</i>
80.0–100%	1
70.0–79.9%	9
60.0–69.9%	3
50.0–59.9%	3
40.0–49.9%	0
< 39.9%	0
Total	16

Table 4.33: Difference in Percent Correct Between Civics Items From Prospective Applicants and Revised Civics Items

Prospective applicants		Revised items study		
Item	Percent correct	Item	Percent correct	Difference
131. What does "We the People" mean in the Constitution?	13.9	1. The idea of self-government is in the first 3 three words of the constitution. What are these words?	52.8	+38.9
141. What type of economic system does the U.S. have?	23.9	2. What is the economic system in the U.S.?	65.5	+41.6
93. Name your state's two U.S. Senators.	42.9	5. Who is one of your state's two U.S. Senators?	73.5	+30.6
84. Who does a U.S. Representative represent?	22.5	6. What do you call the person who represents your district in Congress?	39.3	+16.8
85. What decides each state's number of U.S. Representatives?	24.8	7. Why do some states have more Representatives than other states?	54.6	+29.8
74. Name one example of checks and balances.	16.0	3. What system of government stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?	38.0	+22.0
64. Name one thing only the federal government can do.	19.4	8. Our Constitution limits powers to the Federal government. What is one power of the Federal government?	28.0	+8.6
116. What is one thing a state government can do?	21.2	9. Under our Constitution, powers belong to the states. What is one power of the states?	37.0	+15.8
55. In what month are general presidential elections held in the United States?	73.0	10. When do the people vote for President?	85.6	+12.6
22. What are "inalienable rights"? AND	5.9	4. Inalienable rights are natural rights that people are born with. What are two of these rights in the Declaration of Independence?	31.3	+25.4
12. Name one important idea found in the Declaration of Independence.	21.6			+9.7
42. What is the Pledge of Allegiance?	10.8	11. Why do we say the Pledge of Allegiance?	41.3	+30.5
127. Name one promise you make when you say the Oath of Allegiance.	26.3	12. When you become a citizen, what is one promise you make?	39.9	+13.6
75. Who can vote in the U.S. presidential elections?	21.0	13. How old do citizens have to be to vote for President?	78.9	+57.9
123. Who is called the "Father of Our Country"? AND	74.4	14. Who was the first President and the "Father of Our Country"?	91.1	+16.7
47. Who was the first President?	89.1			+2.0

Prospective applicants		Revised items study		
Item	Percent correct	Item	Percent correct	Difference
2. Name one of the writers of the Federalist Papers? AND	8.5	15. The Federalist papers were a group of essays supporting the passage of the U.S. Constitution. Name one of the writers.	56.8	+48.3
86. What group of essays supported passage of the U.S. Constitution?	9.6			+47.2
111. Name one of the things that Abraham Lincoln did.	57.1	16. What is one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?	54.2	-2.9
94. The United States fought Japan, Germany, and Italy during which war?	62.8	17. What countries did the United States fight in World War II?	71.1	+8.3
126. What international organization was established after World War II (WWII) to keep the world at peace?	31.9	18. Why was the United Nations created?	43.6	+11.7
46. Which U.S. World War II general later became President?	15.3	19. Before becoming President, Eisenhower was a General. What war was he in?	49.2	+33.9
Average percent correct	31.5	Average percent correct	54.3	+22.8

Table 4.34: Difference in Percent Correct Between Reading Items From Prospective Applicants and Revised Reading Items

Prospective applicants		Revised items study		
Item	Percent correct	Item	Percent correct	Difference
6. [REDACTED]	94.3	1. [REDACTED]	97.0	+2.7

Table 4.35: Difference in Percent Correct Between Writing Items From Prospective Applicants and Revised Writing Items

Prospective applicants		Revised items study		
Item	Percent correct	Item	Percent correct	Difference
6. [REDACTED]	71.9	14. [REDACTED]	74.1	+2.2

Table 5.1: Items From Sample of Current Applicants With Low Item Discrimination

Item text	Item discrimination
Civics items	
Who lived in America before the Europeans arrived?	0.24
Who is the President now?	0.09
Who makes federal laws?	0.24
What is the capital (or capital city) of your state?	0.23
We elect a President for how many years?	0.16
Who was the first President?	0.15
When do we celebrate Independence Day?	0.14
Why does the flag have 13 stripes?	0.16
There are 13 original states. Name three.	0.22
Who is called the "Father of Our Country"?	0.16
What is the highest court in the U.S.?	0.11
On the Fourth of July we celebrate independence from what country?	0.23
Reading items	
[REDACTED]	-0.02
[REDACTED]	0.23
[REDACTED]	-0.01
[REDACTED]	0.00
[REDACTED]	0.00
[REDACTED]	-0.01
[REDACTED]	-0.01
[REDACTED]	-0.01
[REDACTED]	0.23
[REDACTED]	0.24
[REDACTED]	0.22
Writing items	
[REDACTED]	0.13
[REDACTED]	0.24
[REDACTED]	0.22
[REDACTED]	0.19
[REDACTED]	0.18
[REDACTED]	0.13

