



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness

# **United States History**

2023 Civics Released  
Questions and Answer Key

## General Information

### Overview of House Bill 1244:

The 86th Texas Legislature passed House Bill (HB) 1244 in 2019. This bill requires the U.S. History STAAR end-of-course (EOC) assessment to include 10 questions randomly selected from the civics test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) as part of the naturalization process. HB 1244 requires that the questions included be aligned to the TEKS for United States History Studies Since 1877. In addition, HB 1244 requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to issue a report annually that provides the questions included in the test and the answers to those questions, as well as student performance on the questions, both statewide and disaggregated by school district and campus.

### Implementation:

All students will take the civics question section, but different students may encounter different questions. Because not all students will encounter all of the civics questions, individual student data will not be available. Student performance on those questions will be reported at the state, district, and campus levels and will not be part of a student's individual U.S. History STAAR score.

## **United States History**, Civics

Question 1:

The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the U.S. Constitution. What are these words?

- A. I pledge allegiance
- B. We the People
- C. Congress shall make
- D. We the British

## **United States History**, Civics

Question 2:

What stops one branch of government from becoming too powerful?

- A. The right to petition
- B. Electoral college
- C. Popular sovereignty
- D. Checks and balances

## **United States History**, Civics

Question 3:

What is the supreme law of the land?

- A. The Constitution
- B. The Northwest Ordinance
- C. The oversight power of Congress
- D. The executive orders of the President

## **United States History**, Civics

Question 4:

What is the economic system in the United States?

- A. Nationalized economy
- B. Traditional economy
- C. Capitalist economy
- D. Federal economy

## **United States History**, Civics

Question 5:

What is the “rule of law”?

- A. Everyone must follow the law.
- B. Everyone will most likely follow the law.
- C. Citizens will most likely follow the law, but criminals will not.
- D. Citizens must follow the law, but government officials are exempt.

## **United States History**, Civics

Question 6:

What does the President's Cabinet do?

- A. Supports the Supreme Court
- B. Helps to elect the President
- C. Reports to the Congress
- D. Advises the President



## **United States History**, Civics

Question 7:

What is an amendment?

- A. A change to the Constitution
- B. An explanation of the separation of powers
- C. An introduction to the Constitution
- D. A description of the role of government

## **United States History**, Civics

Question 8:

Who is in charge of the executive branch?

- A. The Secretary of State
- B. The Majority Leader
- C. The President
- D. The Attorney General

## **United States History**, Civics

Question 9:

What does the Constitution do?

- A. Establishes a national language
- B. Defines American independence
- C. Introduces judicial review
- D. Protects basic rights of Americans

## **United States History**, Civics

Question 10:

What does the judicial branch do?

- A. Creates laws
- B. Enforces laws
- C. Vetoes laws
- D. Reviews laws

## **United States History**, Civics Items

Correct Answers:

1. B. We the People
2. D. Checks and balances
3. A. The Constitution
4. C. Capitalist economy
5. A. Everyone must follow the law.
6. D. Advises the President
7. A. A change to the Constitution
8. C. The President
9. D. Protects basic rights of Americans
10. D. Reviews laws