



USCIS STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT - MARCH 3, 2023, 2-3PM

Questions and Answers

The following questions and answers pertain to the second public engagement on the naturalization test redesign trial tests that was held virtually on March 3, 2023. The engagement focused solely on the trial testing we will be conducting for a five-month period in 2023. Participation in the trial will not affect any naturalization application that may be submitted to USCIS during the trial testing period or any time thereafter. USCIS may use the results to support future changes to the naturalization test. USCIS is not able to answer questions about future changes to the naturalization test at this time.

Trial Test Process Questions

1. What is the time frame for this trial test?

- *The trial tests are scheduled to take place from late May to September 2023.*

2. What type of technology is required to participate in the trial?

- *The trial tests will be administered through a weblink. Volunteer organizations will at least one computer/laptop/tablet connected to the internet and with a microphone.*

3. Can programs with online classes participate? Can the trial test be conducted via online teaching modality (via Zoom)?

- *Yes. Programs that teach virtually must still incorporate trial test educational materials in their curriculum. Programs cannot send the trial test link directly to students. Programs must attend virtual training sessions for volunteer organizations before administering the trial test.*

4. Is there a minimum class size to volunteer for the trial tests?

- *No. We welcome all program sizes.*

5. Will agencies participating in the trial test be required to give an NRS-approved ESL test to the participating students? If not, how will the NRS levels be identified accurately for analysis of item difficulty and alignment to NRS Level 3?

- *Volunteer organizations that already administer NRS-approved ESL tests can provide that data during the trial tests. If volunteer organizations do not have the data, they should skip that question.*

6. How much time are CBOs expected to teach the materials before students take the pilot test?

- *Volunteer organizations should teach the trial test content until students are familiar with the content and format. Students should also prepare at home and study before teachers schedule the one-on-one trial test.*

- 7. For students enrolled in a citizenship class, would they take the trial civics test at the end of the class, or after the provided materials were taught?**
 - *Teachers at volunteer organizations can schedule volunteer students to take the trial test any time after the content has been covered in class or at home. Teachers do not have to wait until the end of the class cycle.*
- 8. Is the trial test a one-on-one format or is group testing possible?**
 - *The trial tests must be administered one-on-one. Teachers will orally administer the speaking trial test. Group testing is not allowed for the trial tests.*
- 9. Will you be collecting how long it takes each applicant to answer the question?**
 - *Yes. We will track how long it takes to answer each test item.*
- 10. How many times will a volunteer test taker be able to take the trial test?**
 - *A volunteer test taker can only take the trial test one time.*

Civics Trial Test Questions

- 1. Is the multiple-choice civics trial test written or oral? Are questions and answer options only presented in written form or are they also spoken by the person administering the test?**
 - *The multiple-choice civics trial test will only be in a written format on the computer. Teachers administering the trial tests cannot read the questions to volunteer students. Students will read the read the questions on their own and choose their response.*
- 2. Will any of the multiple-choice questions have more than one correct answer (not in the a-d choices, but in the study materials, like some of the current questions have)?**
 - *The education/study materials may cover more details to provide context for each civics test question. However, the trial test will contain only one correct answer choice. Volunteer organizations will receive a list of civics test items and practice civics flashcards that will contain the one correct answer for students to study.*
- 3. How will you determine the reading level(s) for the civics-related resources that you plan to develop?**
 - *We will use existing civics resources aligned at the target ESL level, graphic depictions to explain content, word-frequency analysis, and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) to develop study resources.*
- 4. Will the civics test items for the trial be the same as the current 100 civics questions?**
 - *The trial test will not be identical to the current civics questions. Although much of the test content will be the same, there will be a few new questions.*

Speaking Trial Test Questions

- 1. What accommodations will there be for low vision, blind, or deaf students?**
 - *USCIS will seek recommendations from the TAG and use data from the trial test to identify potential accommodations.*