

Civics and Economics

CE.3 & CE.4 Study Guide

STANDARD CE.3A

-- BECOMING A CITIZEN

The processes by which an individual becomes a citizen of the United States

A citizen is an individual with certain rights and duties under a government and who, by birth or by choice, owes allegiance to that government.

The **Fourteenth Amendment** to the Constitution of the United States defines citizenship as follows:

“All persons **born or naturalized** in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are **citizens** of the United States and the state wherein they reside.”



Means of obtaining citizenship

- By **birth**
- By **naturalization**

Immigration and **naturalization**, particularly in the twentieth century, have led to an increasingly **diverse society**.

To become a citizen through naturalization, a person must:

- Be at least **18 years old**
- Be a legal **resident** of the U. S. for **3-5 or more years**
- Be of good **moral character** and be **loyal** to the United States
- Be able to read, write, and speak basic **English**
- Pass a **naturalization test**
- Take the **Oath of Allegiance** at a naturalization ceremony.

STANDARD CE.3B

-- CITIZENSHIP'S RIGHTS & DUTIES

First Amendment freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition, and the rights guaranteed by due process and equal protection of the laws

The **Constitution** of the United States establishes and protects the citizens' **fundamental rights and liberties**.

Few rights, if any, are considered **absolute**.

First Amendment freedoms

- **Religion:** Government may not establish an official religion, endorse an official religion, or unduly interfere with the **free exercise of religion**.
- **Speech:** Individuals are free to express their opinions and beliefs.
- **Press:** The press has the right to gather and publish information, including that which **criticizes** the government.
- **Assembly:** Individuals may peacefully gather.
- **Petition:** Individuals have the right to make their **views known** to public officials.



The **Fifth** and **Fourteenth Amendments** outline **due process**.

Fifth Amendment

- **Protects a citizen** from being **held** for committing a crime unless they have been **charged** by the police.
- The **Fifth** Amendment also **guarantees due process**, which means that the state and the country have to respect a citizen's **legal rights**.

Fourteenth Amendment

- Declares no **state** may deprive persons born or naturalized in the United States **equal protection of the laws**

STANDARD CE.3C

-- DUTIES OF CITIZENSHIP

The duties of citizenship, including obeying the laws, paying taxes, defending the nation, and serving in court.

For government to be effective, citizens must fulfill their civic duties.

Duties of citizens

Obey laws, including

- Paying **taxes**
- Serving in the **armed forces**, if called
- Serving on a **jury** or as a witness in court, when summoned

Citizens who choose not to fulfill these civic duties face **legal consequences**.

STANDARD CE.3D

-- RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENSHIP

The responsibilities of citizenship, including registering and voting; communicating with government officials; participating in political campaigns; keeping informed about current issue; respecting differing opinions in a diverse society

A basic responsibility of citizenship is to contribute to the common good.

Civic responsibilities are fulfilled **by choice**; they are **voluntary**.

Responsibilities of citizens

- **Register and vote**
- Hold **elective office**
- **Communicate** with government officials to influence government actions
- Serve in **voluntary**, appointed government positions
- Participate in **political campaigns**
- Keep informed regarding **current issues**
- **Respect others'** right to an equal voice in government



STANDARD CE.3E

-- COMMUNITY NEEDS

Civic and social duties address community needs and serve the public good.

A democratic society requires the active participation of its citizens.

Ways for citizens to participate in community service

- **Express concern** about the welfare of the community as a whole (e.g., as related to environment, public health and safety, education).
- **Volunteer and help** to make the community a good place to work and live (e.g., by becoming involved with public service organizations, tutoring, volunteering in nursing homes).



STANDARD CE.4A-G

-- GOOD CITIZENSHIP

Thoughtful and effective participation in civic life depends upon the exercise of good citizenship.

Personal traits of good citizens

- **Trustworthiness** and honesty
- **Courtesy** and **respect** for the rights of others
- **Responsibility**, accountability, and self-reliance
- **Respect for the law**
- **Patriotism**
- **Participation** in the school and/or local community
- Participation in elections as an **informed voter**



Effective participation in civic life can include

- formulating questions
- analyzing information from a variety of sources
- expressing a position
- devising and implementing a plan
- practicing thoughtful decision making in personal, financial, and civic matters (e.g., voting, civic issues)