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.

*How does an individual become a citizen?*

The Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America 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 demonstrate knowledge of American history and principles and the ability to read, speak, and write words in ordinary usage in the English language.

**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 of America establishes and protects the citizens’ fundamental rights and liberties.

Few rights, if any, are considered absolute.

*What fundamental rights and liberties are guaranteed in the First and Fourteenth Amendments to the Constitution of the United States of America?*

**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.

**Fourteenth Amendment**

- Extends the due process protection to actions of the states

**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.

*What civic duties are expected of all citizens?*

**Duties of citizens**

- Obey laws
- Pay taxes
- Serve in the armed forces, if called
- Serve 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 issues
- respecting differing opinions in a diverse society

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

What are the ways individuals demonstrate responsible citizenship?

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.4A-G**  
-- **Good Citizenship**

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

How do individuals demonstrate thoughtful and effective participation in civic life?

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)

**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.

In what ways do citizens participate in community service?

Ways for citizens to participate in community service

- **Volunteer** to support democratic institutions (e.g., League of Women Voters).

- **Express concern** about the welfare of the community as a whole (e.g., as related to environment, public health and safety, education).

- **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).