

Civics
Student Background Questionnaire

2010
Grade 12

DIRECTIONS

In the next two sections, you will be asked questions about yourself and your education. The choices for some questions will be written across the page as shown. Fill in the oval for the best answer.

Example 1

	Never or hardly ever	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day
1. How often do you watch movies on TV?	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D

You should have filled in the oval below the answer that best tells how often you watch movies on TV.

The choices for some questions will be written down the page as shown. Now read Example 2 and indicate your answer.

Example 2

2. Which event would you prefer to attend?
<input type="radio"/> A basketball game
<input type="radio"/> B car show
<input type="radio"/> C concert
<input type="radio"/> D play

Make your answer mark clear and dark in the oval. If you make a mistake or want to change your answer, be sure to completely erase any unwanted marks.

Do not go past the  sign at the end of each section until you are told to do so.

If you finish before time is called, go back and check your work on that section only. Use your time carefully. Do as much as you can in each section.



SECTION 3

Section 3

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. The section has 15 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question except where instructed otherwise.

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in **one** or **more** ovals.

VB331330

- Ⓐ No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
- Ⓑ Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
- Ⓒ Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
- Ⓓ Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
- Ⓔ Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.

2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in **one** or **more** ovals.

VB331331

- Ⓐ White
- Ⓑ Black or African American
- Ⓒ Asian
- Ⓓ American Indian or Alaska Native
- Ⓔ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

Section 3

3. Does your family get a newspaper at least four times a week? VB331333

- A Yes
- B No
- C I don't know.

4. Does your family get any magazines regularly? VB331334

- A Yes
- B No
- C I don't know.

5. About how many books are there in your home? VB331335

- A Few (0-10)
- B Enough to fill one shelf (11-25)
- C Enough to fill one bookcase (26-100)
- D Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)

6. Is there a computer at home that you use? VB331336

- A Yes
- B No

7. Is there an encyclopedia in your home? It could be a set of books, or it could be on the computer. VB331337

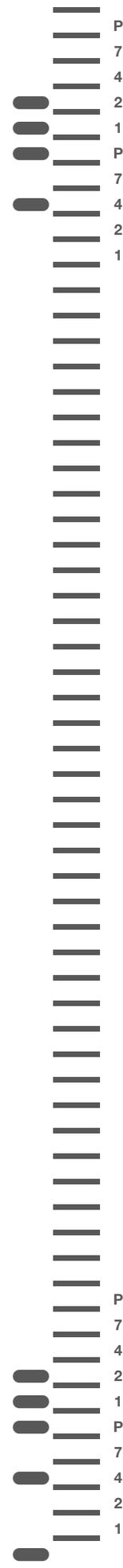
- A Yes
- B No
- C I don't know.

8. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework? TB001101

- A 5 or fewer
- B 6-10
- C 11-15
- D 16-20
- E More than 20

9. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family? VB331339

- A Never or hardly ever
- B Once every few weeks
- C About once a week
- D Two or three times a week
- E Every day



10. How many days were you absent from school in the last month?

VB331447

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1 or 2 days
- Ⓒ 3 or 4 days
- Ⓓ 5 to 10 days
- Ⓔ More than 10 days

11. How far in school did your mother go?

VB330870

- Ⓐ She did not finish high school.
- Ⓑ She graduated from high school.
- Ⓒ She had some education after high school.
- Ⓓ She graduated from college.
- Ⓔ I don't know.

12. How far in school did your father go?

VB330871

- Ⓐ He did not finish high school.
- Ⓑ He graduated from high school.
- Ⓒ He had some education after high school.
- Ⓓ He graduated from college.
- Ⓔ I don't know.

13. How often do people in your home talk to each other in a language other than English?

VB331451

- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ Once in a while
- Ⓒ About half of the time
- Ⓓ All or most of the time

14. Which of the following best describes your high school program?

HE002549

- Ⓐ General
- Ⓑ Academic or college preparatory
- Ⓒ Vocational or technical

15. Write the ZIP code of your home address in the boxes.

VE102537

--	--	--	--	--



SECTION 4

Section 4

This section has 16 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question except where instructed otherwise.

1. In what grade(s) have you studied civics or government? Fill in **all** ovals that apply. VE216906

	Yes	No	
a. Grade 9	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	VE216908
b. Grade 10	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	VE216909
c. Grade 11	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	VE216913
d. Grade 12	<input type="radio"/> (A)	<input type="radio"/> (B)	VE216914

2. In this school year, how often have you studied social studies? VC469156

- (A) Never or hardly ever
- (B) A few times a year
- (C) Once or twice a month
- (D) Once or twice a week
- (E) Every day or almost every day

Section 4



ID100216

3. During this school year, have you studied any of the following topics? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

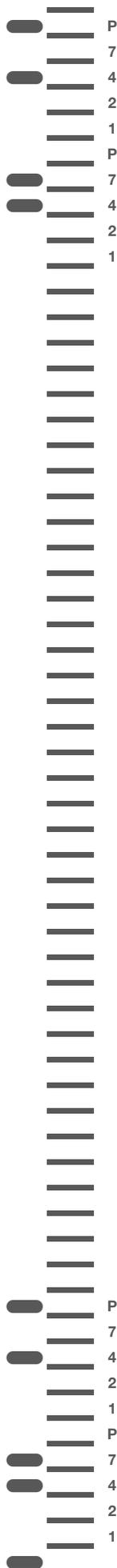
- | | Yes | No | I don't know. | |
|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|----------|
| a. The United States Constitution | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | ID100217 |
| b. Congress | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | ID100218 |
| c. The President and the cabinet | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | ID100219 |
| d. How laws are made | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | ID100220 |
| e. The court system | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | ID100221 |
| f. Political parties, elections, and voting | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | ID100222 |
| g. State and local government | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | ID100223 |
| h. Other countries' governments | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | ID100224 |
| i. International organizations (such as the United Nations) | <input type="radio"/> A | <input type="radio"/> B | <input type="radio"/> C | ID100225 |



4. Indicate how often you do each of the following when you study social studies or civics or government in school. Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day	
a. Read material from a textbook	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132269
b. Read extra material not in the regular textbook (e.g., newspapers, magazines, maps, charts, or cartoons)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132303
c. Discuss the material studied	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132307
d. Write short answers (a paragraph or less) to questions	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132309
e. Write a report	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132316
f. Work on a group project	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132322
g. Give a presentation to the class on the topic being studied	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132323
h. Watch movies or videos	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132324
i. Take a test or quiz	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132326
j. Go on field trips or have outside speakers	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132327
k. Use the books or computers in the library to do schoolwork	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132330
l. Write a letter to give your opinion or help solve a community problem	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132333
m. Discuss current events	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132335
n. Take part in debates or panel discussions	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132338
o. Take part in role-playing, mock trials, or dramas	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132340

Section 4



5. This year in school, how often have you been asked to write long answers to questions or assignments that involved civics or government?

VB610546

- (A) Never
(B) Once or twice this year
(C) Once or twice a month
(D) At least once a week

6. This year, how often have you used computers at school for studying civics or government?

VE138990

- (A) Never or hardly ever
(B) Once every few weeks
(C) About once a week
(D) Two or three times a week
(E) Every day

7. Think about all the courses since the ninth grade in which you have studied civics or government. To what extent have you used computers to do research projects about topics in civics or government using a CD or the Internet? Include both class work and homework assignments.

VE139938

- (A) Not at all
(B) Small extent
(C) Moderate extent
(D) Large extent

8. When you study social studies or civics or government, how often do you agree with the following statements? Fill in one oval on each line.

VC681400

Table with 5 columns: Statement, Never or hardly ever, Sometimes, Often, Always or almost always, and Item ID. Rows include statements about understanding, ease, difficulty, and interest in social studies or civics or government work.



9. How much do you agree that social studies or civics or government is one of your favorite subjects?

VE132747

- Ⓐ Not at all
- Ⓑ A little
- Ⓒ A lot

10. Have you taken or are you currently taking the College Board Advanced Placement course in United States Government and Politics?

ID100232

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

11. Are you currently enrolled in or have you taken any online courses in United States government for high school or college credit?

VC681414

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

12. How much education do you think you will complete?

QK070697

- Ⓐ I will not finish high school.
- Ⓑ I will graduate from high school.
- Ⓒ I will have some education after high school.
- Ⓓ I will graduate from college.
- Ⓔ I will go to graduate school.
- Ⓕ I don't know.

13. What do you expect that your main activity will be in the year after you leave high school?

VC101417

- Ⓐ Working full time
- Ⓑ Attending a vocational, technical, or business school
- Ⓒ Attending a two-year college
- Ⓓ Attending a four-year college, service academy, or university
- Ⓔ Serving in the military
- Ⓕ Other

14. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?

VB595182

- Ⓐ Easier than other tests
- Ⓑ About as hard as other tests
- Ⓒ Harder than other tests
- Ⓓ Much harder than other tests

15. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other tests you have taken this year in school?

VC034559

- Ⓐ Not as hard as on other tests
- Ⓑ About as hard as on other tests
- Ⓒ Harder than on other tests
- Ⓓ Much harder than on other tests

Section 4

VB595184

16. How important was it to you to do well on this test?

- Ⓐ Not very important
- Ⓑ Somewhat important
- Ⓒ Important
- Ⓓ Very important

