

## Applicant's Sample Citizenship Interview – New Version 3

### Notes for Teachers

Following is a new version of the citizenship interview script based on procedural changes recent applicants have encountered at the Boston office. The most important change is that the interview is now divided into three parts, typically with three different interviewers in three different office locations. This is the reason for the repetition of several questions.

The general scenario is as follows:

The applicant checks in, receives a number, and sits down in the waiting area.

After 10-15 minutes, the applicant's number and a window location are displayed on a video screen. The applicant goes to the specified location (there are eight windows in all) and speaks with the first interviewer.

Upon completion of the first step, the applicant returns to the waiting area and repeats the same sequence, only this time a different window location is displayed, and a different interviewer is involved.

Upon completion of the second step, the applicant returns to the waiting area. This time, a third interviewer arrives, introduces himself/herself, and accompanies the applicant to a private office. It is worth noting that, in one case thus far, the second interviewer combined steps 2 and 3 into one step.

Feel free to use this script as a guide, to add and/or remove N-400 and civics questions during mock interviews, and to introduce different reading/writing sentences.

### Notes for Students

Feel free to ask the interviewer to **repeat**, **repeat slowly**, or **rephrase** any question you don't understand.

Do not guess. A terribly wrong answer can signal a lack of comprehension.

### **Do not lie!**

If the interviewer does **not** pass you **only** because of a "**meaning**" question, ask politely, "May I speak with a supervisor?"

### **Step 1, Window 1, Interviewer 1**

Officer: Please raise your right hand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What did you just promise?

**Applicant:**

**[At this point, the officer will ask for the applicant's Green Card and passport, and then take a photo and finger prints.]**

Officer: Please place your **left** index finger here.

Officer: Now place your **right** index finger here. (In one case, the interviewer confused the applicant by instructing her to place "**another one [i.e., finger]**" here.)

Officer: Why are you here today?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Why do you want to become an American citizen?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Before we begin the interview, do you have any questions for me?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What is your full name?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Is that the same name as on your Green Card? Your passport?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What is your home address? Phone number?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What is your country of origin? Country of nationality?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Are you married?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Do you have any children? If so, how many? What are their ages and names?

**Applicant:**

Officer: How many trips have you taken outside the U.S. in the past five years? Where did you go? For what purpose? How long did you stay on each trip?

**Applicant:**

**Step 2, Window 2, Interviewer 2**

Officer: What is your full name?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What is your home address? Phone number?

**Applicant:**

**Reading Test:**

Officer: Please read this sentence: **Who was the first president?**

**Applicant:**

**Writing Test:**

Officer: Please write this sentence: **Washington was the first president.**

**Applicant:**

**[Note: Applicants are now instructed to write one word per line with their finger or a stylus on the tablet. The tablet will also be used for signatures and for comparison of the applicant's answers with the application.]**

**Civics Test:**

Officer: The House of Representatives has how many voting members?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What do we call the first ten amendments to the Constitution?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What is freedom of religion?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What is the rule of law?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What was one important thing that Abraham Lincoln did?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Name one war fought by the United States in the 1900s.

**Applicant:**

### **Step 3, Private Office, Interviewer 3**

**[As mentioned in the Notes on the first page, we know of one case where the second interviewer also covered this portion.]**

Officer: Please raise your right hand. Do you promise to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What did you just promise?

**Applicant:**

#### **N-400 Information:**

Officer: Are/were your mother and father U.S. citizens?

**Applicant:**

Officer: When did you come to this country?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What was your port of entry?

**Applicant:**

Officer: When did you get your Green Card? Who was the sponsor for your Green Card?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What is your full name?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Is that the same name as on your Green Card? Your passport?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Are you married?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Where did you meet your husband/wife?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Where and when did you get married?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Is your husband/wife a U.S. citizen? If so, when did he/she become a citizen?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Do you have children?

**Applicant:**

Officer: How many children? Boys and girls? How old are they? What are their names?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Are your children U.S. citizens?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Where do you live? What is your address and phone number? Who lives there?

**Applicant:**

Officer: How many trips have you taken outside the U.S. in the past five years?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Which countries did you visit? What was the purpose of each visit? How many days were you outside the U.S. each time? What is the total number of days you spent outside the U.S. on these trips?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Do you and/or your husband/wife work? Where is your job? Your husband/wife's job? What work do you and/or your husband/wife do?

**Applicant:**

Officer: If neither of you work, how do you support yourselves? Do you receive any public benefits (for example, food stamps, welfare, housing)?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Do you pay taxes every year? Do you owe taxes?

**[Some applicants check the "yes" box on the form in answer to the question about whether they have ever *not* filed taxes. They then need to be prepared to explain (1) that this was the case only for the years they didn't work and (2) who supported them financially those years.]**

**Applicant:**

Officer: Do you go to school?

**Applicant:**

Officer: If so, what is its name? Where is it located? What classes are you taking?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Have you ever claimed to be a U.S. citizen?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What does **claimed** mean?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Do you now have, or did you ever have, a hereditary title or an order of nobility in any foreign country?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What does **hereditary** mean?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Have you ever been a member of, or in any way associated with (either directly or indirectly) the Communist Party?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What is the **Communist** form of government?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Have you ever advocated (either directly or indirectly) the overthrow of any government by force or violence?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What does **advocated** mean?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Have you ever served in any military?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Have you ever been a habitual drunkard?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What does **habitual drunkard** mean?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Have you ever been arrested and sent to jail?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What is the difference between **jail** and **prison**?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Have you ever participated in torture?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What does **torture** mean?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Have you ever been declared legally incompetent or confined to a mental institution?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What does it mean to be **legally incompetent** or **seriously mentally ill**?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Have you ever registered to vote, or voted, in a U.S. election? If not, why not?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Have you ever sold or smuggled illegal drugs?

**Applicant:**

Officer: What does **smuggled** mean?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Have you ever married to gain an immigration benefit?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Have you ever lied to gain public benefits?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Have you ever helped anyone to enter the U.S. illegally?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Do you support the Constitution and form of Government of the U.S.?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Do you understand the full Oath of Allegiance to the U.S.? What is an **oath of allegiance**?

**Applicant:**

Officer: Are you willing to take the full Oath of Allegiance to the U.S.?

**Applicant:**

Officer: If the law requires it, are you willing to bear arms on behalf of the U.S.?

**Applicant:**

Officer: If the law requires it, are you willing to perform noncombatant services in the U.S. armed forces?

**Applicant:**

Officer: If the law requires it, are you willing to perform work of national importance under civilian direction?

**Applicant:**