

Teacher Guide: **RESPONSIBILITIES**

In order of appearance in **Preparing for the Oath**, the Civics Test items covered in this theme are:

49. What is one responsibility that is only for United States citizens?
 - serve on a jury
 - vote in a federal election

53. What is one promise you make when you become a United States citizen?
 - give up loyalty to other countries
 - defend the Constitution and laws of the United States
 - obey the laws of the United States
 - serve in the U.S. military (if needed)
 - serve (do important work for) the nation (if needed)
 - be loyal to the United States

57. When must all men register for the Selective Service?
 - at age eighteen (18)
 - between eighteen (18) and twenty-six (26)

56. When is the last day you can send in federal income tax forms?
 - April 15

Overview

This Teacher Guide will take you through the Civics Test questions covered in the theme, **Responsibilities**. The instructional steps provided here target ESL students at the high beginning level. Watch the video on the Help screen and take some time to familiarize yourself with the elements and navigation of **Preparing for the Oath** so that you are comfortable presenting it to your class.

Introduction

To start the lesson, open the theme and present the Introduction Screen. Read the introductory paragraph aloud and discuss it with the students.

The United States government was created “of the people, by the people, for the people.” The freedom and safety of the United States is everyone’s **responsibility**. **Citizens** vote in **elections** and serve on **juries**. Everyone must pay taxes and **protect** the United States if needed. We all need to participate for the government to work.

Explore the Questions

These steps will help you guide your class through the theme, using an LCD projector:

1. Distribute the handout **Key Vocabulary—Responsibilities** and review the definitions with the students.
2. Click on the Start button to begin the first video, **Responsibilities for Citizens**.
3. Play the video for the class with the captions on or off.
4. Pause the video where appropriate to discuss the vocabulary and images with the class.
5. Play the video again without pausing.
6. If there is a Practice activity available for this question, click on the “Practice” tab.
7. View and discuss the Practice activity.
8. Click on the “Try” tab.
9. Listen to the Civics Test item and have the students select the answer. Click on the “hear question” button to listen to the item repeatedly. After choosing the correct option, students can hear the answer aloud while they read along at the bottom of the screen.
10. Go through the rest of the videos in this theme, using the steps above.
11. Once the class has gone through all of the videos in this theme, wrap up this lesson with the handout, **Why Do You Think?—Responsibilities**, or assign it to the students for homework.

Key Vocabulary—Responsibilities

citizen: a person who legally belongs to a country and has the rights and protection of that country

courtroom: the place where legal cases are reviewed

defend: to protect someone or something from being attacked

draft: Selective Service, a system that requires people to join the military

election: an event when people choose a member of government by voting

federal: part of the central U.S. government, not state or local governments

jury: a group of people who listen to a case in court and decide if someone is guilty or innocent

loyal: demonstrating support for the same government or set of beliefs

military: the armed forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard)

national defense: military protection of the country and its citizens

obey: to do what the law says you must do

promise: to say you will definitely do something

protect: to keep something or someone safe

register: to put a name or other information on an official list

requirement: something that must be done because of a law or rule

responsibility: a duty or task that you are required or expected to do

serve: to work for a certain period of time, usually in political office or in the military

Social Security: a U.S. government program that provides benefits for certain retired workers and their families, certain disabled workers and their families, and certain family members of deceased workers

trial: a process in court to decide if someone is innocent or guilty of a crime

Why Do You Think?—Responsibilities

This video describes responsibilities of U.S. citizens. Why do you think these responsibilities are considered important? Write a sentence about each one and discuss your ideas with the class.

1. Be loyal to the Constitution

2. Obey the laws of the United States

3. Register for the Selective Service

4. Pay federal taxes

5. Serve on a jury

6. Vote in elections



Visit <http://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship/index.html?theme=13> to go directly to the **Responsibilities** theme.