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

37. What does the judicial branch do?
   - reviews laws
   - explains laws
   - resolves disputes (disagreements)
   - decides if a law goes against the Constitution.

38. What is the highest court in the United States?
   - the Supreme Court

39. How many justices are on the Supreme Court?
   - nine (9)

40. Who is the Chief Justice of the United States now?
   - John Roberts (John G. Roberts, Jr.)
Overview
This Teacher Guide will take you through the Civics Test questions covered in the theme, Courts. 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.

Special note: Remind your students that, immediately prior to their naturalization interview, they should visit www.supremecourt.gov for current information on the Supreme Court.

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 courts are one branch of the federal government. The courts are also called the judicial branch. This branch resolves disagreements and reviews laws. There are many different types of courts, like state courts and municipal courts. These lessons are about federal courts.

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

1. Distribute the handout Key Vocabulary—Courts and review the definitions with the students.
2. Click on the Start button to begin the first video, Judicial Branch: Purpose.
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, Crossword Puzzle—Courts, or assign it to the students for homework.
Key Vocabulary—Courts

**breaks the law**: to not follow the law

**case**: a question or an argument that is decided in the court system

**constitutional**: when something is allowed because it is in the U.S. Constitution

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

**illegal**: not allowed by the law

**justice**: 1. a judge on the U.S. Supreme Court; 2. fairness under the law

**nominate**: to officially recommend a specific person to work in a political office

**segregation**: to make people live, work, and study separately because of their race, religion, or ethnicity

**separate**: to keep something or someone apart
Crossword Puzzle—Courts

Think about the Courts theme and the key vocabulary you have studied. Read the sentences below and fill in the correct word or words in each blank. Then write those words in the crossword puzzle.

Across
3. The ________________ ________________ is the highest court in the United States.
6. It is ________________ to break the law.
7. The judicial branch ________________ if a law goes against the Constitution.
8. ________________ means part of the national U.S. government and not the state or local government.

Down
1. ________________ ________________ justices are on the Supreme Court?
2. There are nine ________________ on the Supreme Court.
4. The judicial branch ________________ laws.
5. Who is the ________________ ________________ of the United States?

Visit http://americanhistory.si.edu/citizenship/index.html?theme=3 to go directly to the Courts theme.