



## **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT** The 2022 Naturalization Test Redesign Initiative

### **USCIS Office of Citizenship**

January 12, 2023

## Reminders

- During the Q&A and listening session portions, the operator will provide instructions on how to ask a question or how to provide feedback.
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Welcome Remarks

### Eva Millona, Chief USCIS Office of Citizenship, Partnership and Engagement

### 2022 Naturalization Test Redesign Initiative



- <u>Executive Order on Restoring Faith in Our Legal</u> <u>Immigration Systems and Strengthening Integration and</u> <u>Inclusion Efforts for New Americans</u>
- Federal Register Notice

### The reason for the proposed changes



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- Executive Order 14012 calls for eliminating barriers in, and otherwise improving, the existing naturalization process, with particular emphasis on the civics and English language tests.
- Create a consistent, fair, and transparent process to ensure that applicants have the information they need to study and prepare for all parts of the naturalization test.

### The reason for the proposed changes



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- In compliance with Executive Order 14012, USCIS reviewed the naturalization test to ensure fair and efficient adjudications, analyzing the test against best practices in the field of testing and taking into consideration stakeholder feedback on barriers to naturalization.
- Advances in technology for administering the test.

### The proposed changes

design initiative involves two parts of

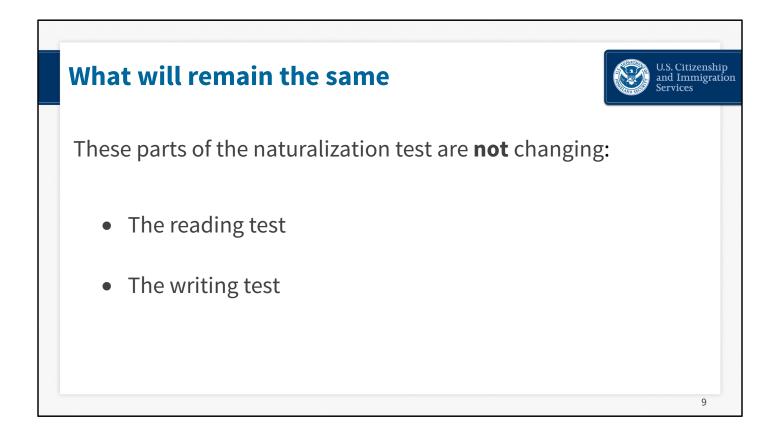
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Services

The naturalization test redesign initiative involves two parts of the naturalization test:

- A new proposed speaking test
- A new proposed civics test



The reading and writing tests are already standardized and aligned to National Reporting Standard ESL Level 3.

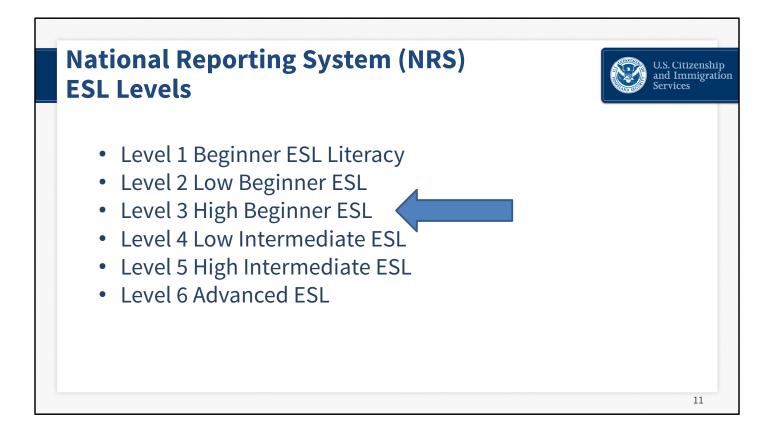
### **Proposed speaking test**



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USCIS proposes to:

- Standardize and separate the speaking test from the Form N-400, Application for Naturalization interview;
- Align to the National Reporting System (NRS) ESL Level 3 High Beginner (in accordance with statutory requirement for ordinary usage - INA 312, 8 CFR 312); and
- Use picture prompts that will require applicants to describe the picture using simple words and phrases.



https://nrsweb.org/resources/test-benchmarks-nrs-educational-functioning-levelsefl-updated-august-2019

Th reading and writing test are already at NRS Level 3.

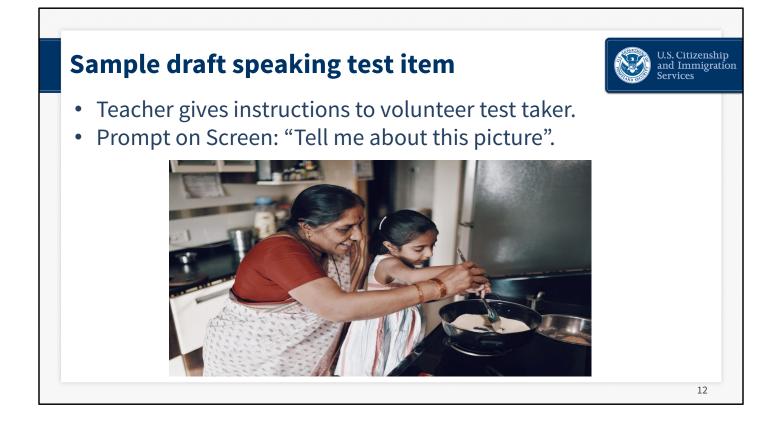
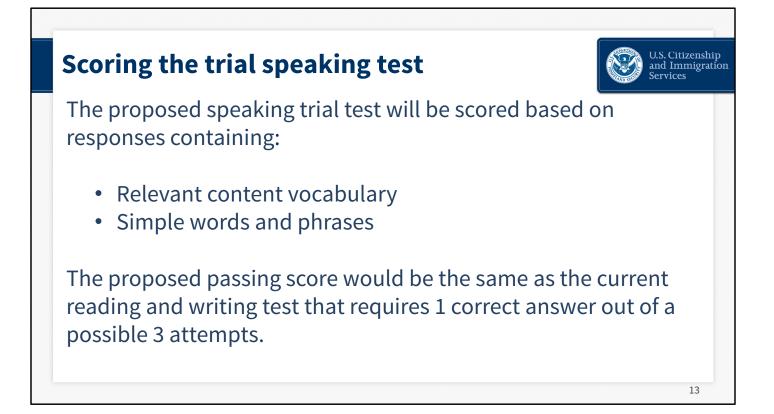
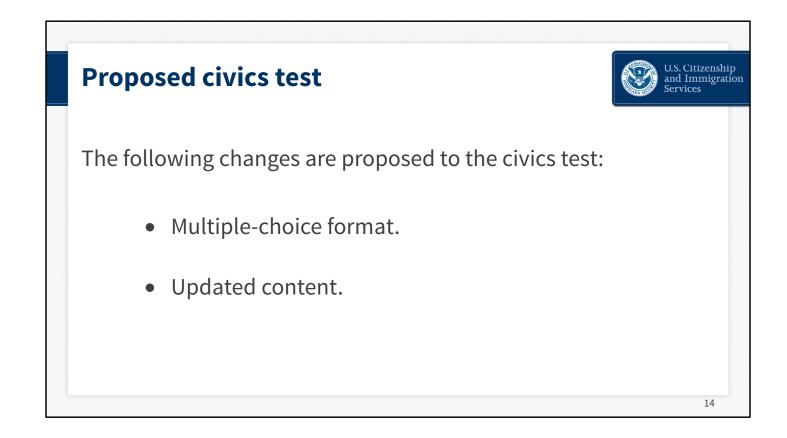
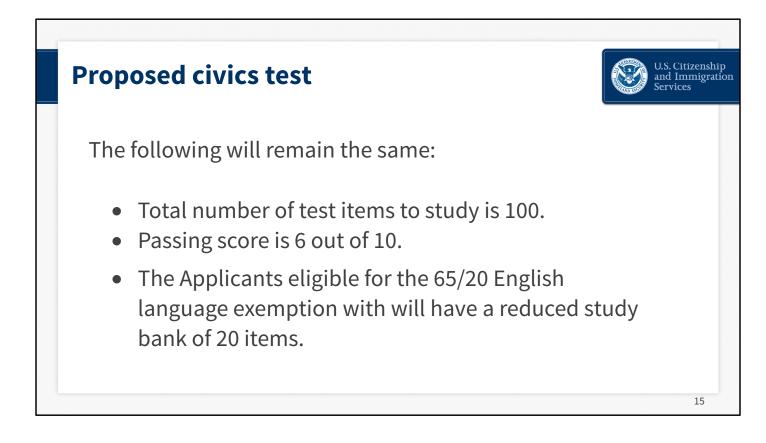


Image taken from Microsoft PPT stock images.

The teachers in the trial test will give instructions before displaying the prompt and picture.







Note: The exact 20 items will change but there will still be 20 items total for 65/20 to study.

### Sample draft civics test item

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Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?

a. George Washington

#### **b.** Thomas Jefferson

- c. Abraham Lincoln
- d. Martin Luther King Jr.

(Based on question #62 on the 2008 Civics Test)

### **Trial testing of proposed changes**

As part of the naturalization test redesign initiative, USCIS will test the proposed changes with volunteer adult English language learners in ESL classes and Lawful Permanent Residents (LPRs) in adult citizenship education classes.

- The Office of Citizenship will work with volunteer community-based organizations (CBOs);
- Teachers at these CBOs will ask their students to volunteer for the trial test; and
- Participation is voluntary and will not affect a naturalization application filed with USCIS.

### Volunteering for the trial test

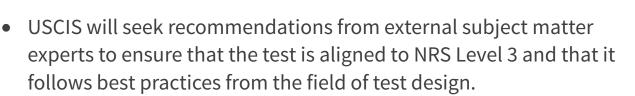


The Office of Citizenship is asking nonprofit organizations that are offering adult ESL classes and/or adult citizenship classes to volunteer for the trial tests. Some eligibility requirements to volunteer are listed below. Volunteer organizations must:

- be a nonprofit with 501(c)3 status;
- be conducting adult education classes during the trial test period; and
- incorporate trial test educational materials provided by the Office of Citizenship in their curriculum.

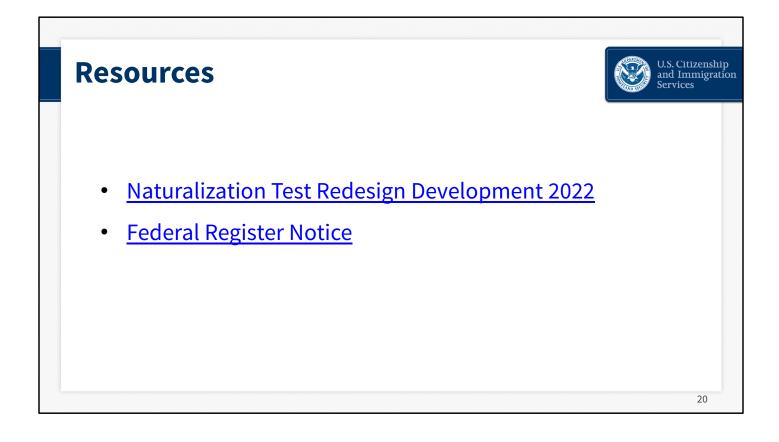
Email <u>natzredesign22@uscis.dhs.gov</u> if you are interested in volunteering.

## The role of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG)



- USCIS will contract with external subject matter experts in the fields of language acquisition, U.S. history and civics, and test development.
- The TAG will review draft test items before and after the trial test and provide recommendations.

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- We cannot address case-specific questions.

## **Listening Session**



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- You may also share feedback via the Q&A box in WebEx.
- Limit your feedback to the topics discussed today.
- Do not share identifying information about children or others

## **Topic 1: Speaking Test Format**



• USCIS is proposing a new speaking test based on picture prompts.

## **Topic 2: Civics Test Format**



• USCIS is proposing a new civics test in multiplechoice format.

## **Topic 3: Civics Test Pass Score**



USCIS is proposing to keep:

- the civics test pass score at 6 out of 10;
- the total number of test items at 100;
- the 65/20 special consideration provisions.





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