



The Australian citizenship test and citizenship course

The Australian citizenship test is designed to allow citizenship applicants to demonstrate they satisfy a number of legislative requirements to become an Australian citizen, including:

- an understanding of the nature of their application
- a basic knowledge of the English language
- an adequate knowledge of Australia and the responsibilities and privileges of citizenship.

The test is in English, consists of 20 multiple choice questions and has a pass mark of 75 per cent. The test is normally computer based and you can be shown how to use the computer if you have not used one before. Sometimes the test may be done on paper if a computer is not available.

Who is required to sit the citizenship test?

Most applicants for conferral of Australian citizenship, aged between 18 and 59 years old, are required to sit the citizenship test. To sit the test you must have first submitted a valid application for conferral of Australian citizenship.

At a test appointment, you must:

- satisfy the department of your identity during the process of registering for the test
- allow the department to take your photograph, or provide one to the department.

An exemption from citizenship testing is available if you suffer from a permanent loss or substantial impairment of hearing, speech or sight; or if you have a permanent or enduring physical or mental incapacity. An exemption will need to be supported by medical evidence.

What options are available to meet the citizenship test requirements?

The different learning and testing options to meet the testing requirements for Australian citizenship by conferral are:

1. self-directed learning using the citizenship test resource book and associated resources, followed by the computer-based test
2. self-directed learning using the citizenship test resource book and associated resources, followed by an assisted computer-based test, during which a departmental officer reads the test questions and possible answers to you aloud, or assists in operating the computer.

A 20 hour citizenship course, run over seven sessions, incorporating formal assessment tasks is also available for applicants referred by the department.

Citizenship test resources

What resources are available to prepare for the citizenship test?

The **citizenship test resource book**, Australian Citizenship: Our Common Bond, focuses on concepts associated with the Australian Citizenship Pledge that people make when they become citizens, including Australia and its people, Australia's democratic beliefs, rights and liberties, and government and the law in Australia.

The resource book is written in plain English, and is split into testable and non-testable sections. All test questions are based on the information in the testable section of the book. The non-testable section of the book contains interesting and useful information about Australia.

The **citizenship test resource DVD**, Australian Citizenship: Our Common Bond, presents key points from the testable section of the resource book. The audio-visual DVD is particularly helpful if you have a low level of literacy and, together with the translated version of the resource book, can assist you to prepare for the citizenship test.

Translations of the test resource book in 37 languages can be downloaded from the citizenship website.

Practice test questions are available in the resource book, including the translated versions and on the DVD and citizenship website.

It is recommended that you study the resource book or DVD prior to sitting the test. The book and DVD can be ordered or downloaded free of charge from the citizenship website.



Citizenship course

A citizenship course Our Common Bond: A Course in Australian Citizenship has been developed as an alternative test for disadvantaged people who are likely to have difficulties when undertaking a computer-based test. For example, people with limited literacy or schooling. The course is delivered in English only and does not provide a pathway for people who do not speak basic English.

Course eligibility

Who can attend the citizenship course?

It is expected the vast majority of applicants will continue to sit and pass the citizenship test before they become citizens. For this reason, you will not be able to self-select to undertake the course instead of the computer-based test. If you fail the computer-based test three or more times you may be referred to the citizenship course by the department. You do not need to pay an additional fee to attend the citizenship course.

Course assessments

Does the course include any assessments?

Yes, there are five sessions during which participants complete a number of assessment tasks. As with the computer-based test, the course assesses whether participants meet the legal requirements for citizenship.

What if I fail an assessment?

Participants have the opportunity to be reassessed during the duration of the course. If they do not successfully complete an assessment task on their second attempt, they are not permitted to continue in the course.

What qualifies as successful completion of the citizenship course?

In order to successfully complete the course, participants are required to:

- attend all sessions unless they can provide a medical certificate
- participate in basic English in all classroom activities and discussions
- complete all assessment tasks and achieve at least 75 per cent in each task.

What if I can't successfully complete the course?

Participants who fail the citizenship course will be allowed one final attempt at sitting the computer-based test before their application is finalised.

Childcare

Is childcare available?

No. Childcare is not provided to people while attending a citizenship course. Appropriate childcare arrangements need to be made by individuals prior to attending the citizenship course.

For more information

The citizenship website
www.citizenship.gov.au

The citizenship information line
Phone: 13 18 80

Operating 8.30 am – 4.30 pm Monday to Friday. This number is only available if you are calling from within Australia.

Immigration offices outside Australia. If you are outside Australia please contact your nearest Australian mission. The citizenship website provides the location, hours of operation and telephone numbers for the department's offices outside Australia.