



**Civics**  
**Student Questionnaire**

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**2014**  
**Grade 8**

## SECTION 3

## Section 3

In this section, please tell us about yourself and your family. Please answer questions about your home based on where you live most of the time during the school year. The section has 13 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question except where instructed otherwise.

VB331330

1. Are you Hispanic or Latino? Fill in **one** or **more** ovals.

- Ⓐ No, I am not Hispanic or Latino.
- Ⓑ Yes, I am Mexican, Mexican American, or Chicano.
- Ⓒ Yes, I am Puerto Rican or Puerto Rican American.
- Ⓓ Yes, I am Cuban or Cuban American.
- Ⓔ Yes, I am from some other Hispanic or Latino background.

VB331331

2. Which of the following best describes you? Fill in **one** or **more** ovals.

- Ⓐ White
- Ⓑ Black or African American
- Ⓒ Asian
- Ⓓ American Indian or Alaska Native
- Ⓔ Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

### Section 3

VB331335

3. About how many books are there in your home?

- Ⓐ Few (0–10)
- Ⓑ Enough to fill one shelf (11–25)
- Ⓒ Enough to fill one bookcase (26–100)
- Ⓓ Enough to fill several bookcases (more than 100)

VB331336

4. Is there a computer at home that you use?

- Ⓐ Yes
- Ⓑ No

VF098664

5. Do you have the following in your home? Fill in ovals for **all** that apply.

- Ⓐ Access to the Internet
- Ⓑ Clothes dryer just for your family
- Ⓒ Dishwasher
- Ⓓ More than one bathroom
- Ⓔ Your own bedroom

TB001101

6. About how many pages a day do you have to read in school and for homework?

- Ⓐ 5 or fewer
- Ⓑ 6–10
- Ⓒ 11–15
- Ⓓ 16–20
- Ⓔ More than 20

VB331339

7. How often do you talk about things you have studied in school with someone in your family?

- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
- Ⓑ Once every few weeks
- Ⓒ About once a week
- Ⓓ Two or three times a week
- Ⓔ Every day

VB331447

8. How many days were you absent from school in the last month?

- Ⓐ None
- Ⓑ 1 or 2 days
- Ⓒ 3 or 4 days
- Ⓓ 5 to 10 days
- Ⓔ More than 10 days

VB330870

9. How far in school did your mother go?

- Ⓐ She did not finish high school.
- Ⓑ She graduated from high school.
- Ⓒ She had some education after high school.
- Ⓓ She graduated from college.
- Ⓔ I don't know.

VB330871

10. How far in school did your father go?

- Ⓐ He did not finish high school.
- Ⓑ He graduated from high school.
- Ⓒ He had some education after high school.
- Ⓓ He graduated from college.
- Ⓔ I don't know.

VB331451

11. How often do people in your home talk to each other in a language other than English?

- Ⓐ Never
- Ⓑ Once in a while
- Ⓒ About half of the time
- Ⓓ All or most of the time

VF095730

12. Do the following people live in your home? Fill in ovals for **all** that apply.

- Ⓐ Mother
- Ⓑ Stepmother
- Ⓒ Foster mother or other female legal guardian
- Ⓓ Father
- Ⓔ Stepfather
- Ⓕ Foster father or other male legal guardian

VE102537

13. Write the ZIP code of your home address in the boxes.

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## SECTION 4

### Section 4

This section has 12 questions. Mark your answers in your booklet. Fill in only **one** oval for each question except where instructed otherwise.

1. In which of the following grades did you learn about civics or government? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

VC467353

	Yes	No	I don't know.	
a. 5th grade	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC467355
b. 6th grade	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC467356
c. 7th grade	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VC467357
d. 8th grade	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	VE131733

2. How often do you study social studies in school?

VB594977

- ☐ A Never or hardly ever
- ☐ B Once or twice a month
- ☐ C Once or twice a week
- ☐ D Almost every day

ID100216

3. During this school year, have you studied any of the following topics? Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Yes	No	I don't know.	
a. The United States Constitution	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	ID100217
b. Congress	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	ID100218
c. The President and the cabinet	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	ID100219
d. How laws are made	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	ID100220
e. The court system	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	ID100221
f. Political parties, elections, and voting	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	ID100222
g. State and local government	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	ID100223
h. Other countries' governments	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	ID100224
i. International organizations (such as the United Nations)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	ID100225

4. Indicate how often you do each of the following when you study social studies or civics or government in school. Fill in **one** oval on each line.

	Never	A few times a year	Once or twice a month	Once or twice a week	Almost every day	
a. Read material from a textbook	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132269
b. Read extra material not in the regular textbook (e.g., newspapers, magazines, maps, charts, or cartoons)	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132303
c. Discuss the material studied	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132307
d. Write short answers (a paragraph or less) to questions	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132309
e. Write a report	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132316
f. Work on a group project	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132322
g. Give a presentation to the class on the topic being studied	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132323
h. Watch movies or videos	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132324
i. Take a test or quiz	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132326
j. Go on field trips or have outside speakers	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132327
k. Use the books or computers in the library to do schoolwork	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132330
l. Write a letter to give your opinion or help solve a community problem	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132333
m. Discuss current events	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132335
n. Take part in debates or panel discussions	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132338
o. Take part in role-playing, mock trials, or dramas	<input type="radio"/> A	<input type="radio"/> B	<input type="radio"/> C	<input type="radio"/> D	<input type="radio"/> E	VE132340

## Section 4

- VB594978
5. This year in school, how often have you been asked to write long answers to questions or assignments that involved social studies?
- Ⓐ Never
  - Ⓑ Once or twice this year
  - Ⓒ Once or twice a month
  - Ⓓ At least once a week
- VE112830
7. When you study social studies, to what extent do you use computers to do research projects about social studies topics using a CD or the Internet? Include both class work and homework assignments.
- Ⓐ Not at all
  - Ⓑ Small extent
  - Ⓒ Moderate extent
  - Ⓓ Large extent
- VB594979
6. How often do you use computers at school for social studies?
- Ⓐ Never or hardly ever
  - Ⓑ Once every few weeks
  - Ⓒ About once a week
  - Ⓓ Two or three times a week
  - Ⓔ Every day
- 
- VC681400
8. When you study social studies or civics or government, how often do you agree with the following statements? Fill in **one** oval on each line.
- |   | Never<br>or hardly<br>ever | Sometimes | Often | Always<br>or almost<br>always |          |
|---|----------------------------|-----------|-------|-------------------------------|----------|
| a. I have a clear understanding of what my social studies or civics or government teacher is asking me to do. | Ⓐ                          | Ⓑ         | Ⓒ     | Ⓓ                             | VC681401 |
| b. The social studies or civics or government work is easy.   | Ⓐ                          | Ⓑ         | Ⓒ     | Ⓓ                             | VC681402 |
| c. The social studies or civics or government work is difficult.  | Ⓐ                          | Ⓑ         | Ⓒ     | Ⓓ                             | VC681403 |
| d. The social studies or civics or government work is interesting.  | Ⓐ                          | Ⓑ         | Ⓒ     | Ⓓ                             | VC681404 |



9. How much do you agree that social studies or civics or government is one of your favorite subjects?

VE132747

- ☐ Ⓐ Not at all
- ☐ Ⓑ A little
- ☐ Ⓒ A lot

10. How hard was this test compared to most other tests you have taken this year in school?

VB595182

- ☐ Ⓐ Easier than other tests
- ☐ Ⓑ About as hard as other tests
- ☐ Ⓒ Harder than other tests
- ☐ Ⓓ Much harder than other tests

11. How hard did you try on this test compared to how hard you tried on most other tests you have taken this year in school?

VC034559

- ☐ Ⓐ Not as hard as on other tests
- ☐ Ⓑ About as hard as on other tests
- ☐ Ⓒ Harder than on other tests
- ☐ Ⓓ Much harder than on other tests

12. How important was it to you to do well on this test?

VB595184

- ☐ Ⓐ Not very important
- ☐ Ⓑ Somewhat important
- ☐ Ⓒ Important
- ☐ Ⓓ Very important

