



2025-26 Citizenship Preparation FAQs

Note: Information added after July 1, 2025, is shown in green.

Citizenship Testing: CASAS Citizenship Interview Test (CIT) Certification, Recertification, and CASAS Government and History for Citizenship

1. *Who can administer the Citizenship Interview Test (CIT)?*

Any certificated or classified employee of the agency with excellent English proficiency can be certified to administer the CIT.

2. *Can the Citizenship Prep class teacher also administer the CIT to their students?*

Yes, Citizenship Preparation teachers certified to administer the CIT can administer it to their own students, however, proper test administration guidelines need to be adhered to.

3. *How do I enroll in CIT Certification training?*

Have your agency place an order for the training (CIT-CTO). There is no charge for California WIOA, Title II: AEFLA funded agencies.

[Order CIT Certification Training](#)

Steps for ordering CIT Certification or Recertification training are at the 2 minute mark of [this video](#) on the YouTube CASAS Citizenship Preparation Support Channel.

4. *Does the CIT Certification require recertification?*

Yes, the CIT Certification requires annual recertification. Test administrators must be recertified every year between Jan 1 and April 30.

5. *How do I become CIT Recertified?*

Recertification is conducted annually **between January and April, for the upcoming program year**. The deadline for completing recertification is April 30. During the first week of January, all eligible CIT examiners will receive an email with instructions on how to recertify. Recertification is completed online. If you are a current CIT test examiner and you do not receive an email by January 10th, you should contact CIT@casas.org. **CIT certification expires June 30th** of each year. CIT examiners must recertify if they want to continue administering the test next program year. For additional information, please email CIT@casas.org

6. *Why do I need to be recertified each year?*

Consistent test administration is required to maintain consistency in rating oral responses, which is critical for accuracy and validity of test scores. On an objective multiple choice reading test, answers are scored against an answer key. On an oral test, the test administrator must "rate" the response and give it a score based upon specific criteria.

Over time, oral test examiners drift and tend to become more lenient or rigid in their scoring. Recertification ensures that test administrators remain consistent, and that scores across test examiners and agencies remain consistent and valid.

In order to keep the test "standardized," all scoring must continue to be based upon the same interpretation of the scoring rubrics developed for the test.

7. *Are testing instructions available in languages other than English?*

No. However, communicating with test takers in their native language is acceptable **before** the test begins.

8. *Do I need to record CIT interviews?*

No, you do not need to record them, however, if you do so, you must ask the student for permission. Say, *"I am going to record this interview. The interview will not be saved after it is checked. Do you give permission to be recorded?"* You must delete the interview once you have scored it.

9. *What level are the CASAS Citizenship Interview Test (CIT) and CASAS Government and History Test (G&H)?*

The CIT test is for high beginning to advanced level students. The G&H is an intermediate level test.

10. *What test do we use to determine if a student is eligible to participate in a citizenship class?*

Any student can participate in Citizenship instruction as long as the content is adapted for the student's level. However, students must have a pretest score measured by an NRS approved CASAS Reading or Listening series that places them in NRS level 1 or above to earn payment points. Students must have a Pretest and Post-Test pair to earn payment points.

11. *Can English language learners (ELLs) whose CASAS test scores are above the advanced level earn EL Civics Citizenship Participation payment points?*

An ELL's score on a CASAS test has no bearing on earning a payment point unless the score designates ESL literacy level (e.g. Reading STEPS -183 or below, Listening STEPS -181 or below). ESL literacy level students cannot earn EL Civics payment points.

12. *How many times can I administer a test to the same student if they do not pass?*

There is no limit to how many times you can administer the CIT to a student. A significant number of instructional hours must occur before re-testing, and you must alternate between forms 973 and 974. Only retest when the student is ready so they do not become discouraged.

13. Are a certain number of “hours of instruction” required before a student can be retested for the CASAS Citizenship Interview Test (CIT) or the CASAS Government and History for Citizenship Test (G&H)?

The **Citizenship Interview** and **Government and History for Citizenship** tests are not pre-post tests and are not eligible for NRS reporting so there are guidelines as opposed to rules. Students who do not pass the CIT or G&H assessments can be tested again after remedial instruction. There is no specific number of hours required, the goal being mastery of specific content. Agencies should alternate between CIT forms 973 and 974 and G&H forms 965 and 966. Agencies can earn one payment point per student for the CIT and one for the G&H if all the other requirements for CA WIOA II payment points are met.

14. The USCIS has been making changes to the naturalization tests. Will CASAS be changing the CIT or Government and History for Citizenship Tests soon?

CASAS is monitoring changes to the USCIS Naturalization tests and will be updating the CASAS citizenship tests if needed. Please note that the Citizenship Interview Test and CASAS Government and History Test for Citizenship are designed to predict success with the naturalization process and do not test 100 percent of the possible items that an applicant might be asked. It is up to citizenship teachers to adapt their instruction to make sure that current information is taught.

15. USCIS guidelines state that the ability to understand English will not be based on being asked to provide a definition of a word or phrase found in the Form N-400. Why does the CIT ask for definitions?

The purpose of the CIT is to prepare students to pass the USCIS naturalization interview. In preparing to take the CIT, citizenship preparation students learn vocabulary and language on the N-400 application for citizenship. Although the USCIS will not require an applicant to define a difficult word, if an applicant answered Yes or No to one of the questions, the officers might want to clarify whether the applicant actually understood what they were saying. A citizenship student’s ability to explain the meaning of a word is a predictor of success at the actual USCIS interview.

Remote Testing for Citizenship

16. What steps must an agency take to begin administering the CIT or G&H remotely?

To begin CIT or G&H Remote Testing:

- a. At least one person from each agency completes [CIT Remote Test Training Webinar](#) and trains other CIT examiners, if appropriate (for CIT only).
- b. Agencies complete an [Agency Remote Testing Agreement](#).
- c. CIT and G&H examiners sign [Proctor Remote Testing Agreement](#).
- d. Each agency adds their remote testing procedures to their *Local Assessment Policy*

17. How do I offer the CIT remotely?

The CIT test, a one-to-one (1:1) testing procedure, can be accomplished using a video conferencing platform or smartphone. Electronic CIT test booklets can be ordered for CIT remote testing.

a. How do I order them?

Request the *CASAS Fillable PDF CIT Test Booklets, Forms 973 and 974* by emailing CIT@casas.org.

18. Can I share the CASAS Fillable PDF CIT Test Booklets with others?

You can only share the fillable test booklets (for remote testing only) with other CIT examiners at your agency. They cannot be shared with anyone else.

19. Can the CASAS Fillable PDF CIT Test Booklets be printed?

If using the fillable PDF is not practical, examiners have the option of printing it out and completing it by hand, as one would with the paper booklet.

20. How do I offer the Government and History for Citizenship (G&H) listening test remotely?

There are two options for administering the G&H remotely:

- a. Optimum method - CASAS eTests with one of the four CASAS Remote Testing approaches: [Remote Testing for CASAS tests](#)
- b. Standardized PowerPoint on a CASAS flash drive

21. How can I get the G&H flash drive for remote testing?

Use the CASAS California Order Form for WIOA Title II 225/231 Agencies. **Order 1 flash drive per test administrator.** Agencies may not make copies of flash drives and test administrators may not share flash drives with other test administrators.

22. Do I need to be certified to administer the G&H remotely? No certification is required to administer the G&H test using the flash drive however, only certified CASAS eTests proctors can administer the G&H through eTesting.

23. Where can I find more information about Citizenship remote testing?

- a. The CIT Remote Testing Training Webinar recording, CIT Remote Testing Guidelines and CIT Remote Testing Agreements can be found on the [California Remote Testing](#) page of the CASAS website.
- b. G&H remote testing instructions can be found in the Test Administration Directions on the CASAS Government and History for Citizenship flash drive.

AEFLA/WIOA Title II, TOPSpro Enterprise (TE), and Class Set Up for Citizenship Preparation

24. *How do I designate a class that is both EL Civics and Distance Learning? Do I need to designate it as both EL Civics and Distance Learning, or just one or the other?*

You can designate both in the TOPSpro Enterprise Classes Instances record. To designate a class as EL Civics, go to the Class Instances Record for that particular class in TOPSpro Enterprise. In that record, find the section for EL Civics, and designate the class as either Civic Participation or Citizenship Preparation. In the same Classes Instances record, you can also designate that same class as Distance Learning.

25. *How do I set up a class to have instruction in both Civic Participation and Citizenship Preparation or Civic Participation and Integrated EL Civics (IELCE)?*

If a Civic Participation Class will give instruction in both Citizenship Preparation and Civics Participation or Civic Participation and IELCE, set up 2 classes in TE. Then, in the Focus Area select one for each class:

- Citizenship Preparation (231)
- Civic Participation (231)
- IELCE (243)

For example, an agency has planned a class for intermediate level learners M-Th 9am-12pm This agency wants to teach one 231 funded Citizenship Preparation class and one 231 funded Civic Participation class during the Fall Semester. This can be accomplished in two ways:

Example 1:

- Set up one class from 9-10:30am M-TH designated as 231 funded Citizenship Preparation in TE.
- Then set up another class from 10:30am-12:00pm M-Th and designate this class as 231 funded Civic Participation. Teach the 30 hours of the 231 funded Civic Objective and assess it during that time period in the semester.

Example 2:

- Split the class into two 8–10-week quarters. Set up one class from 9am-12pm M-TH for the first “quarter” designated as 231 funded Citizenship Preparation in TE.
- Then set up another class from 9am-12pm M-TH for the second “quarter” and designate this class as 231 funded Civic Participation in TE. Teach the 231 funded Civic Objective and assess it during this time period in the quarter.

Be sure to mark “ESL/ELL” for Instructional Program.

CIT Materials and Security

26. What is the storage policy for CASAS testing materials?

Blank and completed CIT test forms 973/974 print or PDF need to be secured in a locked cabinet (print) or secure computer (digital). Agencies should keep a small number of pass and fail examples of completed CIT test forms for auditing purposes. These need to be kept for three years plus the current year in a central agency location, unless an agency knows that they will be the subject of an ongoing audit, in which case they must keep records for 5 years. (See the CASAS Administration Manual for additional information related to saving and archiving documents.)

27. I have some defaced CASAS test booklets and some obsolete ones. What do I do with them?

All test booklets (no matter how old they are) must be shredded by the school or agency according to the following process:

- a. Shred the test booklets.
- b. Send a letter written on school or agency letterhead to CASAS with the following information:
 - Statement of number of test booklets and test forms that were shredded
 - Statement of when they were shredded
 - Signature of the school or agency administrator
- c. Keep a copy of the letter for your records.
- d. If the school or agency cannot shred the test booklets, the test booklets can be sent to CASAS to be shredded. If that is the case, the school or agency must keep a letter on file (on letterhead) noting which test booklets were sent, how many and when they were sent, signed by the administrator.

Follow-up

Where can I find more information about Citizenship Preparation?

You can find more information, including instructional resources, on the CASAS website at [Product Overviews Citizenship](#). [And on the YouTube CASAS Citizenship Preparation Support Channel](#)
For additional questions please contact CIT@casas.org.