

*Literacy tests were used to keep people of color -- and sometimes poor whites -- from voting. They were administered at the discretion of the officials in charge of voter registration and if the official wanted a person to pass, he could ask the easiest question on the test -- for example, "Who is the president of the United States?" The same official might require a black person to answer every single question correctly, in an unrealistic amount of time, in order to pass.*

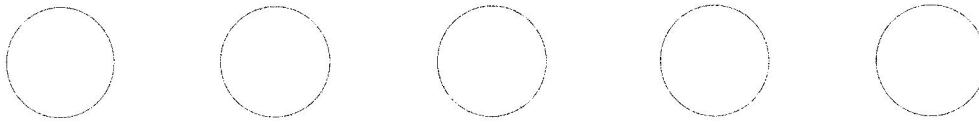
The following test is examples of questions given to citizens in Alabama and Louisiana to prove they were of 5<sup>th</sup> grade education level. Do what you are asked, nothing more, and nothing less. Be careful as one wrong answer denotes failure of the test. You have 10 minutes to complete the test. Are you smarter than a 5<sup>th</sup> grader?

1. Which of the following is a right guaranteed by the Bill of Rights?  
 Public Education  
 Employment  
 Trial by Jury  
 Voting
2. If a person is indicted for a crime, name two rights which he has. \_\_\_\_\_ &  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. A person appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court is appointed for a term of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. A President elected at the general election in November takes office the following year on what date?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. To serve as President of the United States, a person must have attained:  
 25 years of age  
 35 years of age  
 40 years of age  
 45 years of age
6. What words are required by law to be on all coins and paper currency of the U.S.?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. The number of representatives which a state is entitled to have in the House of Representatives is based on  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Communism is the type of government in:  
 U.S.  
 Russia  
 England
9. Draw a line around the number or letter of this sentence.
10. Draw a line under the last word in this line.
11. Cross out the longest word in this line.
12. Draw a line around the shortest word in this line.
13. Circle the first, first letter of the alphabet in this line.
14. In the space below draw three circles, one inside of the other.
15. Draw a line through the letter below that comes earliest in the alphabet.  
z v s b d g m k y t p h c
16. Draw a line through the letters below that come last in the alphabet.  
z v s b d g m k y t p h x

17. In the first circle below write the last letter of the first word beginning with "L".



18. Draw a line from circle 2 to circle 5 that will pass below circle 3 and above circle 4.



19. In the space below write the word noise backwards and place a dot over what would be its second letter should it have been written forward:

20. Give your age in days:

**DO YOU THINK YOU PASSED THE TEST?**

**NO**

**BACK TO START**

Despite being intelligent and well educated, you could not pass the test for the simple reason that the test was created with failure as the goal. Even if you know the correct answers to all 68 questions, the official administering the test might still decide that you have failed.

**YES**

**CONTINUE**

Against tremendous odds, you have passed the literacy test. Congratulations! Unfortunately, that doesn't guarantee that you'll be able to cast your ballot. On Election Day, you will be faced with another set of obstacles.