

THE ELLIS ISLAND INTERVIEW

WOULD YOU PASS?

When they arrived at Ellis Island, immigrants had to go through a long interview before being admitted into the country. The government wanted to make sure that each new citizen had a realistic plan for their new life here and had opportunities waiting for them. Being sick, not being able to read and write, or not having family in the United States could sometimes convince immigration officers to send people back to their homeland.

Below are questions from the standard interview that every person processed at Ellis Island had to answer. See if you could pass the test!

What is your name? _____

How old are you? _____

Are you a boy or a girl? _____

Are you married? _____

What is your job? _____

(If you don't have one, you can write "student")

What country are you from? _____

(If you're from the U.S., name the countries your family came from.)

Where do you plan to live here in the United States? _____

Who paid for your passage? _____

How tall are you? _____

What color are your eyes and hair? _____

Do you have any birthmarks? What do they look like? _____

Where were you born? _____

Next, try answering the Yes or No questions on the following page.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION QUESTIONNAIRE

These questions were important in helping officials decide whether to allow an immigrant entry into America. Answer the questions and tally up your score below.

1. Can you read and write in your native language? **Yes / No**
 2. Can you read and write in English? **Yes / No**
 3. Do you have \$50 or more? **Yes / No**
 4. Have you ever been to America before? **Yes / No**
 5. Have you ever been in prison? **Yes / No**
 6. Are you sick? **Yes / No**
 7. Do you already have a job here in the United States? **Yes / No**
 8. Do you have a place to live here in the U.S.? **Yes / No**
 9. Do you have a ticket to get there? **Yes / No**
 10. Do you have family here in America? **Yes / No**
-

SCORING

1. Add one point if you answered yes.
2. Add one point if you answered yes.
3. Add one point if you answered yes.
4. Add one point if you answered yes.
5. Add one point if you answered no.
6. Add one point if you answered no.
7. Add one point if you answered yes.
8. Add one point if you answered yes.
9. Add one point if you answered yes.
10. Add one point if you answered yes.

What's your score? _____



The higher your score, the more likely it is that you would have been accepted into America.