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?	
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. ———	
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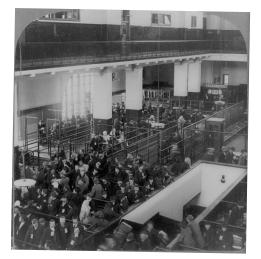
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION QUESTIONNAIRE

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

Add one point if you answered yes.
Add one point if you answered no.
Add one point if you answered no.
Add one point if you answered no.
Add one point if you answered yes.



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

