

UNIT 2. SPAIN: POLITICAL ORGANISATION - REVIEW

THE CONSTITUTION

1. Answer these questions:

- a. What is the most important law in Spain? _____
- b. When did Spain become a democratic country? _____
- c. What is Spain's form of government? _____

2. (RESEARCH) Name three rights stated in the Constitution.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

(http://www.congreso.es/constitucion/ficheros/c78/cons_espa.pdf)

3. Imagine what would happen if education wasn't a right in Spain. Write down your own conclusions. _____

4. Your school is a community. Make a list of your rights and responsibilities in the school.

RIGHTS:

- _____
- _____
- _____

RESPONSIBILITIES:

- _____
- _____
- _____

5. (RESEARCH) Is it possible to see the Constitution? Where is it? _____

6. (RESEARCH) When was the first Spanish Constitution drawn up? _____

7. (RESEARCH) Find out about the "Fathers of the Constitution". Who were they? What political party did they belong to?



THE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

8. Complete the chart.

SPANISH INSTITUTIONS		
Power branch/Name of the institution	Members	In charge of...

9. Which institution decides if a law is in accordance with the Constitution? Why do you think it is important for an institution to do this? _____

10. Which branch of government should do each of these things?

- Create a law about how public libraries should work. _____
- Choose where to build a public library. _____
- Decide on the penalty for a person who has robbed a public library.

11. (RESEARCH) Find out more about the national government.

- Who is the prime minister at the moment? _____
- Who are the ministers for health, education and culture and sport?

12. Why do we say that Spain is a Parliamentary Monarchy? What do those two words mean? _____

13. What role does the king play in the Spanish government? _____

14. Match the sentences.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| a. The king or queen | ___ makes and approves new laws. |
| b. The Spanish Constitution | ___ are called deputies. |
| c. The Parliament | ___ is the Head of State. |
| d. The members of congress | ___ is the most important law in the country. 3 |

15. Complete the sentences about the political institutions of Spain.

- a. The Spanish government is divided into three branches: Parliament, _____, _____.
- b. Parliament in Spain is made up of two parts: the _____ and the _____.
- c. The _____ is the head of the government.
- d. The President chooses the _____ to help him or her.
- e. The _____ decides if the Parliament's laws follow the Constitution.

16. How many members represent each province in the Congreso de los Diputados?

17. Who chooses the ministers? _____

18. (RESEARCH) Find out the names of the senators that represent your province.

19. Decide whether the following sentences refer to Legislative power (L), Executive Power (E) or Judicial Power (J).

- a. Ministers of different areas present plans to be voted on. _____
- b. Magistrates belong to this power. _____
- c. They can pass and veto laws. _____
- d. It is made up of two chambers. _____
- e. They decide whether laws are constitutional. _____
- f. It is formed by the Government. _____

28. When were the last general elections? When will the next ones be? _____

29. Complete the sentences:

- a. An election is when people _____
- b. A campaign is when political parties _____
- c. A manifesto is a document which politicians use to _____
- d. A ballot box is where citizens _____

30. How do people vote in Spain? Complete the text.

municipal eighteen party four ballot box ballot papers

There are national and _____ elections every _____ years in Spain and citizens who are older than _____ can vote. When people vote they put their _____ in a _____ and the _____ with the most votes wins.

31. (RESEARCH) Who elects the members of the judiciary body of the Spanish government? _____

SUMMARY

32. Decide which sentences are true (T) or false (F). Correct the false ones.

- a. ___ The Spanish Constitution is the most important law in Spain.
- b. ___ The king can change any law he doesn't agree with.
- c. ___ All Spanish people have the same rights but not the same responsibilities.
- d. ___ The Spanish people elect their kings.

33. Complete the text.

respect - Government - judicial - parliamentary monarchy - branches - - Courts of Justice - law- legislative - freedom - Parliament - - equality - democracy

The Constitution of 1978 is the most important _____ in Spain. It recognizes the principles of _____, justice, _____ and _____ for diversity.

According to the Constitution, Spain is a _____ and a _____.

The separation of powers means that government is divided into the _____ branch, the executive branch and the _____ branch.

The _____ is responsible for creating laws.

The _____ is responsible for governing the country.

The judicial branch is represented in _____.

The autonomous communities also have institutions that represent the three _____ of government.

34. Read and complete.

1. Spain is a democracy organized in a _____.

2. _____ defines the structure of the state and the social and legal rights of Spanish citizens.

3. The _____ body is elected by deputies and senator

4. The _____ establishes three powers.

- a. Spanish Constitution
- b. Judiciary
- c. The Spanish Constitution of 1978
- d. Constitutional Monarchy

35. Make a diagram of the main institutions of Spain and the branch of power each represents.



LEARN MORE

DEMOCRACY

“Democracy is a Greek word which means “rule of the people”. Democracy as a form of government originated in ancient Greece thousands of years ago, and has evolved over time.

As Abraham Lincoln, former president of the United States, declare: *Democracy is the government of the people, by the people, for the people.*

The characteristics of democratic countries include:

- **Human rights.** Democratic countries follow the principles of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and establish laws to protect human rights.
- **Equality before the law.** All citizens should be treated equally under the law, regardless of gender, age, race, religion or economic status.
- **Active political participation.** Leaders are chosen by the citizens through a free and secret ballot. Any citizen can run as a candidate for election.
- **Control of power.** Power is divided among several independent political institutions. This prevents the accumulation of power in one institution.

Search the Internet for more information about the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.

<https://www.humanrights.gov.au/publications/what-universal-declaration-human-rights>

https://www.ohchr.org/EN/UDHR/Documents/UDHR_Translations/eng.pdf

- What is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights? _____

- When was the Universal Declaration Created? _____

- What does the Universal Declaration say? _____

- Is the Universal Declaration legally binding? _____

- How many articles has it got? _____

- Name three rights stated by the UDHR.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

- Check the list of human rights.

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/gallery/2008/oct/17/amnesty-declaration-human-rights-children>

Do you know any situation in your own country in which Human Rights are violated?

DIFFERENT, BUT EQUAL

We live in a country in which human rights are protected by the Constitution. However, human rights are not protected everywhere in the World, and many of the rights we have today did not exist in the past. People had to fight hard for them.

In 1955, Rosa Lee Parks, a black woman, did something that changed the history of human rights. At that time in the Southern United States, only white people could sit in the front rows of a



bus. One day, the driver asked Rosa Parks to give up her seat in the section reserved for black people to a white woman who couldn't find one at the front. She refused and was soon arrested. This started a social movement, which eventually ended racial segregation.

Thanks to people like this, we live in democratic societies in which opportunities, rights and duties are equal to all.

What is this text about? _____

Are human rights protected everywhere in the world? _____

Are human rights protected in Spain? _____

Who was Rosa Lee Parks? _____

What did she do that changed the history of human rights? _____

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/almanac-rosa-parks/>

<https://youtu.be/v8A9gvb5Fh0>

PROJECT

Search the Internet for information about an autonomous community and prepare a poster/ power point (we will decide together in class). Include:

- ✓ location in Spain, geographical limits
- ✓ how many provinces and municipalities it has (you can include a map)
- ✓ important cities
- ✓ extension and number of inhabitants
- ✓ when was it established?
- ✓ when its Statute was approved,
- ✓ its main institutions
- ✓ the president of the community
- ✓ symbols (flag, coat of arms, anthem, official languages,
- ✓ culture: gastronomy, important monument, traditions...

*You can do this project in pairs or individually.