

SPAIN - Political system, Economy and Education

Spain like some other European countries has both a democratic government and a royal family. The political system is called parliamentary monarchy. Spain is divided up into 17 groups called "autonomous communities".

The flag of Spain has three horizontal stripes. The top and bottom stripes are red and the middle stripe is yellow. On the yellow stripe (to the left) is the Spanish coat of arms. The flag is called "la Rojigualda."

The national symbols include the bull and Spanish Imperial Eagle. Flamenco is the national dance. The currency in Spain is EURO. The official national holiday is on October 12 whereas the Constitution Day is December 6.

The languages used in Spain are Castilian Spanish 4%, Catalan 17%, Galician 7%, Basque 2%
the major religion is Roman Catholic 94%, other 6%

ECONOMY

In terms of economy, Spain has well developed agriculture and industry. The country is rich in natural resources such as coal, lignite, iron ore, copper, lead, zinc, uranium. The soils are very good and agriculture prospers. Products provided by agriculture are grain, vegetables, olives, wine grapes, sugar beets, citrus; beef, pork, poultry, dairy products; fish. The industry produces textiles and clothes, footwear, food and beverages, machines and equipment, chemicals, ships, automobiles. Tourism is very important for this beautiful country, full of spectacular landmarks.

EDUCATIONAL system in Spain, has 4 stages: nursery or preschool (which is optional), primary school and secondary school, which are compulsory, and upper secondary school (which is optional). Students attend school from 6 to 16 years old. There are state schools and private schools.

Students study Spanish language and literature, and the language of their region, for example Catalan, Valencian or Basque. Schools also teach Maths, natural and social science, art, a foreign language and PE. There are mixed ability classes. Religious education is optional. Studies show that in some parts of the country students have a lot of set homework. Schools have 2 weeks of holidays at Christmas and Easter and about 10-11 weeks of summer holidays.