

4th GRADE MINIMUM CONTENTS-SOCIAL SCIENCE

UNIT 9: WHERE WE LIVE: POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

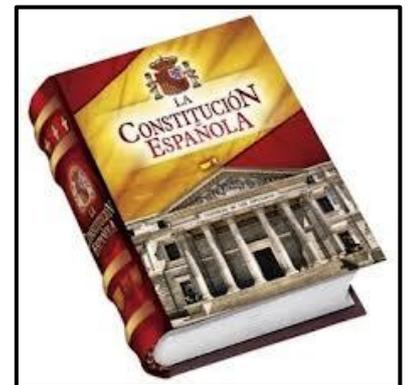
► HOW THE STATE IS ORGANIZED

Spain is a **democracy**. In a democratic state, all the citizens have the same **rights** and **obligations**. For example, all the citizens have the right to express their opinions and ideas freely and the obligation to obey the law. These rights and obligations are written in the **Spanish Constitution**, the most important law in Spain.

THE SPANISH CONSTITUTION AND THE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

The Spanish Constitution was written and approved in 1978. It establishes the following national institutions:

- The **Head of State**. This is the **King**.
- The **Courts of Justice**. Magistrates make sure that the Constitution and other laws are obeyed.
- The **Government** runs the country and serves the people. The Government is made up of the **President** and his/her **ministers**.
- **Parliament** represents the Spanish people. It consists of the **Congress** and the **Senate**.



► GOVERNMENT AND ELECTIONS.

In a democratic state, citizens are represented by the **Government**. Members of the Government belong to a **political party**. A political party is a group of citizens with similar ideas about how to govern the country. In Spain there are many political parties.

ELECTIONS

Political parties stand for the election to obtain the most votes in order to govern. Political parties...

- ...write an **election manifesto** to explain their ideas.
- ...designate **candidates** to hold government positions.
- ...organize an **electoral campaign** to promote their ideas.



Elections are held every four years. Citizens 18 years old and over can vote in elections. The political party with the majority of votes forms the **government**. The other parties make up the **opposition**. There are different types of elections:

- **Municipal elections.** Citizens vote for the local councilors who work in the Town Hall. Then, the town councilors elect the Mayor of the town/city.
- **Autonomous Community elections.** Citizens vote for the members of parliament of their Autonomous Community. The leader of the political party that wins the election becomes the President of the Autonomous Community. Then, the President chooses the counselors (autonomous ministers).
- **General elections.** Citizens vote for the candidates of a political party. The leader of the political party that wins the election becomes the President of the Government of Spain. Then, the President chooses the Ministers.
- **European Parliament elections.** Members of the European Parliament are elected.

► RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS.

Citizens of a democracy have rights and obligations. In Spain, these are defined in the **Constitution**. Some of the most important **rights** are the right to equality, the right to vote in elections and the right to municipal services such as health care and education.

We must obey the law, we must pay the taxes and we must respect each other's political and religious beliefs. These are some of most important **obligations**.

UNIT 9: WHERE WE LIVE: POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS

ACTIVITIES

1.- Read and match. For example: (a.- 6).

a.- The head of the state (a.- ___)	1.- This consists of the Congress and the Senate
b.- The Courts of Justice (b.- ___)	2.- This is the King
c.- The Government (c.- ___)	3.- Magistrate make sure that the Constitution and other laws are obeyed
d.- Parliament (d.- ___)	4.- This is made up of the President and his/her ministers

2.- After which type of election are these people chosen or named?



President of the Government



Mayor of the city



Member of the European Parliament



President of the Autonomous Community

• The President of the Government is chosen after a general election.

- _____
- _____
- _____

3.- Use the words to complete the table.

President of the Government - Autonomous Assembly - Town/city Hall - Autonomous counselors
Mayor and Councilors - Ministers - Town council - Congress & Senate - President of the Autonomous

Municipal Government	Autonomous Government	Spanish State

4.- Complete the text.

Constitution - Courts of Justice - President - democracy - Law
Congress - Senate - rights & obligations - ministers - Parliament

Spain is a _____. Therefore, all citizens have the same _____ which are written in the _____. The Constitution is the most important _____ in Spain. It establishes the national institutions: the Head of State, the _____, the Government and the _____. The Government is made up of the _____ and _____. The Parliament consists of the _____ and the _____.

5.- Complete your bilingual dictionary.

WHERE WE LIVE - <i>Political institutions</i>	
- Constitution: _____	- Town councilor: _____
- Rights: _____	- Autonomous counselor: _____
- Obligations: _____	- Political party: _____ - Candidate: _____
- Law: _____. - King: _____	- Parliament, Congress & Senate: _____
- Head of state: _____	- Electoral campaign: _____
- Citizen: _____	- Election manifesto: _____
- Institution: _____	- Approve: _____ - Obey: _____
- Courts of justice: _____	- Make sure: _____ - Establish: _____
- Minister: _____	- Choose/elect: _____ - Consists of: _____
- Religious beliefs: _____	- Govern: _____ - Vote: _____