Unit 10 Translations

Easy

For many decades the national political situation in Spain had been a competition between two main parties, a right wing and a left wing one, and only a very small third party with a communist ideology. But the crisis in Spain, as well as the problems that young people in particular have been facing, has changed the political landscape. More young people than ever have been prepared to get actively involved, and maybe in a few years their presence will have increased even more.

Medium

Since the 50s and 60s, there have never been so many Spaniards leaving their homeland to look for opportunities in other countries, mainly within Europe. It is not because this generation has become more adventurous than their predecessors, simply that they don’t feel that Spain can provide them with a future. Many of these young people have graduated from university in recent years, but have been unable to find paid employment. The government have been promising for years that their action plan against youth unemployment will work, but in the meantime this generation finds itself unable to fly the nest unless they go abroad.

Hard

If the economic crisis had not hit Spain as harshly as it did, maybe new political organisations such as Ciudadanos or Podemos would not have been deemed necessary. When jobs started to disappear for everybody, and immigrants who had been living and working in Spain for a number of years had to leave because they could no longer find employment, many realised that the traditional politicians were not on their side. There were huge demonstrations in Madrid, and in other Spanish cities, which lasted for months, until the government approved the Gag Law which many saw as a real threat to freedom of speech. Although it had been presented as a tool to fight mindless violence, in reality the new legislation prevented citizens from organising popular protests against the established order.