

## SOLUTIONS

1. Was the Second Spanish Republic overwhelmingly welcomed by the people? Why? Possible answer: Yes, according to eye-witnesses' testimonies, the new regime was welcomed with enthusiasm by most Spaniards (e.g. people singing songs and waving Republican flags). In other words, the birth of the Republic was celebrated by enthusiastic public rejoicing across Spain.

2. "They [the 200 athletes] were the embryo of the future International Brigades". Do you agree? Possible answer: Yes, according to Historian Antony Beevor, a number of foreigners led by Beimler formed the first nucleus of the International Brigades, the Thaelmann (or Thälmann) Battalion.

The International Brigades: "Freedom fighters or Comintern army?" Open task.

3. What do the colours of the militiaman (first picture) represent? The colours of the militiaman's "uniform", which are red and black, are the colours of anarcho-syndicalism: black is the traditional colour of anarchism, and red is the traditional colour of socialism; this symbolizes the co-existence of both ideals within the anarcho-syndicalism movement.

4. Do you know the symbols of Falange? The yoke and arrows; the Roman style of salute with the arm fully extended; the blue shirt; *Cara al Sol* (anthem); a flag with red, black and red vertical stripes; and the Swan (SEU).

5. Reading and summarizing an article.

6. Imagine that you are young soldiers, aged 17 or 18. Your helmet is heavy, plus you carry a rifle, a bayonet, three ammunition pouches, hand grenades, a canteen, your personal belongings, etc. The sun scorches the plains. You want to get rid of your helmet, but the enemy is firing at you. What do you do? What are your feelings? Are you afraid? Are you tired? Open task. Useful vocabulary: Afraid → frightened, scared, aghast, horrified, shocked, troubled, distraught, anxious, worried, confused, frantic, etc. Tired → Exhausted, fatigued, worn out (colloquial), drained, empty, etc. (<http://www.thesaurus.com>).

7. **Why wasn't poison gas used?** Three main reasons were the fear of retaliation, the Geneva Protocol (a treaty which prohibited the use of chemical and biological weapons, 1928), and the international public opinion against the use of gas.

8. **What was a Mixed Brigade?** It was the basic military unit of the "Ejército Popular Republicano" (EPR, Republican People's Army) after its reorganization (October 1936). The columns ("columnas") and militias were replaced by the Mixed Brigade ("Brigada mixta"). Mixed brigades were typically infantry units and they were composed of four infantry battalions of five companies each, a mixed sapper battalion and a Service Corps company (including a medical corps group). A division was composed of two or three "brigadas mixtas". Bibliography: Carlos Engel, *Historia de las Brigadas Mixtas del Ejército Popular de la República*, Madrid, Almena, 1999, and Orden, circular, creando un Comisariado general de Guerra, *Gaceta de Madrid: Diario oficial de la República*, tomo IV, núm. 290, 16 octubre 1936, p. 355.

9. **In groups, have students analyze a letter (primary source) from an American volunteer:** <http://www.english.illinois.edu/maps/scw/letters.htm>

Have students imagine they are alive during the SCW and a family member has been recruited as a soldier. How important would it be to receive a letter? What would those left at home hope to hear about? Open task.

10. **What was the most (in)famous bombing in the SCW? What do you know about it?** The Basque town of Guernica (Gernika). On 26 April 1937, Guernica was bombed under the code name "Operation Rügen" by German and Italian air forces. It was the most famous bombing raid of the SCW. Although other towns were bombed during the war, Guernica created a special controversy: it was one of the first air raids on a defenceless civil population (carpet bombing with a mix of 250 kg -explosive- and ECB1 -incendiary- bombs). The bombing almost entirely destroyed Guernica but the number of victims is still disputed: between 200 and 1,650 people were killed and many hundreds wounded. This tragedy inspired Picasso's most famous piece, which was exhibited at the Paris International Exposition (1937).