  
 **Term Paper on Belgium**

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Subject: Submission of Term Paper on ‘**Belgium**’ for completion of course

Honourable Teacher,

It is indeed a great pleasure for us to be able to handover the hardship of the term paper on **Belgium**. This term paper is the result of the knowledge which has been acquired by us from the respective course.

We tried our level best for preparing this term paper. The information on this term paper is collected through secondary research. We did our research on as much as articles related to this topic as we can. But we did not be able to do primary research. We gave our one hundred percent effort for making this report come together. The completion of this report is essential for the completion of our course BUS201, Business and Human Communication.

We, enthusiastically hope that you will find this report worth reading. Please feel free to ask for any query or clarification that you would like us to explain. Hope you will appreciate our hard work and excuse the minor errors. Thanking you for your cooperation.

Yours submissively,

| Md. Raihan Rahman |
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| Mashnoor Navid  **Table of Content**   * **Introduction**…………………………………………………………07 * **Analysis**………………………………………………………………09      * **Conclusion**………………………………………………………………………..10 * **References**…………………………………………………………………………15 |
|  |

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We are grateful because we managed to complete this term paper within the time given by our beloved **Fabiha Enam**. This term paper cannot be completed without the effort and co-operation from our group members **Raihan, Nur, Nahian, Ehtasemul, Mashnoor**. Last but not least, we would like to express our gratitude to our friends and respondents for their support and willingness to spend some time with us.

**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this paper is to know the differences between our country and Belgium. Knowing about other countries of the world will bring us a way to understand their point of view. This will help us from cultural shock and many other conflicting trends around the globe. We will have knowledge about Belgium and its glorious History. Countries like Belgium are also one of the leading countries so knowing about their way of business and many other things will help us understand our flaws in the system.

Here, we have discussed various events and trends of Belgium which will help us to communicate with them in further events. This paper has many unknown facts about Belgium which are not known to many of us so we can use this as an educational portfolio in the future and also lend this paper to people who want to know about Belgium. As, Paper covered many significant topics so it is a very source of details as well.

**Submitted By**

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**Introduction**

There are 193 members of the United Nations (U.N.) plus two non-member countries with permanent observer states, the Holy See (The Vatican) and the State of Palestine. So, according to the U.N. there is a grand total of 195 sovereign states in the world today.

[Source: [www.zmescience.com](http://www.zmescience.com) ]

Belgium or Officially Known as the Kingdom of Belgium is one of the members of well renounce U.N countries of the World. Belgium is well known for medieval towns and reminiscing architectural beauties. According to Wikipedia**, “**It is bordered by Netherlands to the north, Germany to the east, Luxembourg to the southeast, France to the Southwest and North Sea to the northwest”. The area is around 11,849 Sq mi and Population is around 11.5 Million. The Capital and largest city is Brussels.

Legally, Belgium is a [sovereign state](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sovereign_state) and a [federal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federation) [constitutional monarchy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitutional_monarchy) with a [parliamentary system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Parliamentary_system). Its institutional organization is complex and is structured on both regional and linguistic grounds. It is divided into three highly [autonomous](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Autonomy) [regions](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communities,_regions_and_language_areas_of_Belgium):[Flanders](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flanders) in the north, [Wallonia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wallonia) in the south, and the [Brussels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brussels)-Capital Region. Brussels is the smallest and most densely populated region, as well as the richest region in terms of [GDP per capita](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_GDP_per_capita).

Belgium has two main speaking linguistic Communities where 60 percent of the people Dutch and the other 40 percent speaks French. Though, there are a small number of people who speak German. There are also some people who speak both. The capital city is officially bilingual although it is mostly French.

Belgium is one of the six founding countries of the [European Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Union) and its capital, Brussels, hosts the official seats of the [European Commission](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Commission), the [Council of the European Union](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Council_of_the_European_Union), and the [European Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Council), as well as one of two seats of the [European Parliament](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Parliament) (the other being [Strasbourg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strasbourg)). Belgium is also a founding member of the [Eurozone](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurozone), [NATO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO), [OECD](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/OECD), and [WTO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Trade_Organization), and a part of the trilateral Benelux Union and the [Schengen Area](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schengen_Area). Brussels hosts the headquarters of many major international organizations such as NATO.

Belgium is a [developed country](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Developed_country), with an advanced [high-income economy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_Bank_high-income_economy). It has very high standards of [living](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_of_living), [quality of life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quality_of_life), [healthcare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Health_care), [education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education), and is categorized as "very high" in the [Human Development Index](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Human_Development_Index). It also ranks as one of the [safest or most peaceful countries](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Global_Peace_Index) in the world.

**Analysis**

**Business Etiquette of Belgium:**

Business etiquette is a set of rules that govern the way people interact with one another in business, with customers, suppliers, with inside or outside bodies. It is all about conveying the right image and behaving in an appropriate way.

Source: <https://www.smartcompany.com.au/people-human-resources/business-etiquette/>

### **Corporate Social Responsibility:**

According to one of the public news statistics, in last 20 years in Belgium, people have been more attracted towards their Social responsibility than ever and they are focusing in business norms. They issue a curriculum in business studies as well.

They have also focused on Municipal waste management to organize all sorts of problems they faced before.

### **Punctuality:**

This is one of the moral virtues that they desire in each and every people who is directly or indirectly involved in Business. Belgians are generally good timekeepers, although the Flemish Belgians tend to be more meticulous than the Walloons. And being on time is regarded as honorary and responsive etiquette.

### **Gift giving:**

Sometimes giving gifts may be regarded as bribery but in Belgium, if you respect your business partners and you want to honor them then it is okay to send gifts. And people will appreciate your effort as a business partner to make a healthy relationship.

Even many Companies follow the trend of giving gifts to employees in special events. They believe this will encourage employees to work hard and earn their loyalty.

Again, if you have been invited to a house, it is good for partners to bring gifts like chocolates, flowers, fruits but not Wine. And giving flowers is believed to be a normal norm in European Countries.

As for the returning gift, it is normal to send gifts like handwritten letters to your business colleagues.

### **Business Dress Code:**

It is normal to wear jackets in business organizations and many companies also accept this as normal daily attire. Dress Code color has no particular importance though attractive jazzy colors are not allowed in most of the cases.

Also, Wearing Traditional clothes is acceptable in all companies and Cities like Brussels. French attire is also normalized as formal dress code because most people speak French and follow their trends.

In business sectors, Clothes are important to show your social status and Quality of life. They also prefer shoes as daily attire over other footwear. Sometimes, people may classify depending on their attire.

Women wear trousers or trouser suits in daily business organizations or companies but in any special events, it is important to dress well rather than under-dress. People normally do not wear uniforms in informal jobs except for chefs, hygiene workers etc.

Sometimes, Companies organize special events and business persons must wear a dress according to the given dress code. And they also honor the trend.

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**Belgium culture and language:**

Belgium is a country in the west full of their own culture. Although this is a smaller country compared to other countries in Europe, their culture makes them unique from the world in north western Europe. The country is very suitable for tourists with its suitable weather. In the population calculation, in total 97% of the people live in the city sides and the rest of the people live in the village. In terms of the cultural practices, there have been practices in religious festivals, liberal festivals, folk festivals, art festivals etc. also, as a part of the culture, there are several historical monuments, religious buildings, public buildings, castles, palaces, archeological sites, parks and gardens etc. All the elements of these define the culture of Belgium, (Munsters, 1996). Moreover, The language belongs to the part of the culture. In Belgium, there are three major languages practiced by the people which are, Dutch, French and German. These three are the official language of Belgium. There are also practices in other languages. The dutch is the common and largest used language by the Belgium people. There are some political identity and issues based on the language, (O'Neill, 2000).

**Food:**

Belgium is a country with its own types of food. The culture is represented by its production of food. Also, there are some national dishes by the country which makes their culture and food unique. The dishes are Moules-frites, Carbonade flamande, Hamburgers, spaghetti Bolognese etc. The most preferable food to the world's people is chocolate. The chocolate, Beer etc are some of the best served in the country. Belgian cuisine is one of the cultural dishes in the country which represents their teste of food. The French fries are also equally famous and well accepted to the people of the country. The people in Belgium prioritizes the taste and the appearance of the food. The people of Belgium find their cultural food to be the best food all over the world, (Verbeke, 2005).

**Religion:**

Most of the people in Belgium belong to the Christian community. In percentage, there are up to 60% of the total population who are Christian. There are other people who follow other religion such as people with 5.2 percentage follow Islam. On the other hand, 32% of the total population are non-religious people. In addition, 2.1% of people are followers of other religions. So, basically, what can be predicted about the religious perspective of this country should be a liberal country. There are a variety of religious people with the dominating group of Christian followers. Also, the Christians are followers of Roman Catholicism. However, being a secular country in Europe, the amount of the schools and educational institutions are mostly Christian based. “In spite of recent tendencies of secularization and religious pluralism, most Belgian schools are Catholic schools, where Roman Catholic religious education is a compulsory subject”, (Franken, 2016). Moreover, in the other practices of religion such as the muslims, they are practicing their religion in different types. Some are following strictly and some are very liberal practicing muslims. For example, in Belgium, the strict muslim people are very much conscious about the Halal food, on the other hand, lebaral people do not bother about it so much. “Low acculturated Muslims rely strongly on their positive personal attitude toward the health status of halal meat, whereas high acculturated Muslims rely on health attitude, animal welfare attitudes, and safety when intending to consume halal meat. Muslims with a high Muslim self-identity intend to eat halal meat because they believe that it is healthy whereas Muslims with a low Muslim self-identity are rather influenced by religious peers, together with their personal health attitude and availability concerns”, (Bonne; setc ,2008). These are the present conditions of the religious practice in Belgium.

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**19304032**

Belgium is a country with mixed culture. The people over there are from different countries and their location is behind the Netherlands and after one country from Germany. their languages are French, Dutch, German as well. They are extroverted people and they love luxury. They never want to fall into conflicts but in the business etiquette language matters. The educated famous Belgian are more proficient in foreign language than French speakers which reflects their country had linguistic fault and has survived.

| **Ehteshamul haque**  **18101481** |  |
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Belgium is an interesting nation that's been molded by numerous distinctive impacts. Best known within the world for its waffles, chocolate, and lager, Belgium is as captivating and as assorted as its nourishment and drinks!

**Belgium can function without a government**

Belgium is a constitutional monarchy. It has a king and governments - a federal government and 5 territorial governments. Belgium has demonstrated time and once more that the nation can work without a federal government. Once, it took 589 days for a government to be shaped and individuals found it completely satisfactory. Some fair things take time, they say. Others contend that it is really indeed way better this way since they do not have any new tax increases during the period that it takes to make a government. Update: Amid the foremost later government arrangement in 2019-2020, Belgium broke its past world record. This time, it took 652 days for a federal government to be shaped in Belgium.(Jurga,December 27 2020)

**There is no Belgian language**

Belgium has three official dialects and none of them is called Belgian. Individuals talk Dutch. French, and German in different parts of the country. Within the Dutch-speaking schools, kids begin to memorize French within the 5th grade at the most recent. So the larger part of Flemish individuals too talk French. Though the schools in Wallonia do not have required lessons of Dutch, so exceptionally few French- talking individuals from Wallonia can communicate in Dutch. Most Flemish individuals too talk English. Kids regularly learn English from the TV before they learn it at school. It's not the case within the French- talking portion of the nation since all their TV programs are dubbed.(Jurga,December 27 2020)

**Belgians are crazy about football**

Belgium's football group is called the Red Devils and the complete nation colors red when there are any major football occasions.The Belgian national group was number 1 within the world on the FIFA positioning and the nation was as joined together as never before. Football (soccer) is the only thing that can unite all Belgians and make them disregard all the contrasts and differences, even if for a brief while. During any major football occasions, you'll see individuals wearing all sorts of football-related accessories, cars are beautified with banners and devil horns,and you'll be able see Belgian banners hanging out of the windows all over the place.(Jurga,December 27 2020)

**There are tens of different types of Belgian waffles**

You'll discover more than 30 sorts of distinctive waffles in a normal Belgian general store . But most Belgian waffles in Belgium don't taste anything like Belgian waffles within the U.S. The two most prevalent sorts of waffles that you'll discover for a deal at traveler places are Brussels waffles and Liege waffles. The Brussels waffles are airier and not as sweet, while the Liege waffles are exceptionally thick, rich, and full of pearl sugar. The Belgian waffles' merely discover overseas are as a rule to some degree comparative to the Brussels waffles.(Jurga,December 27 2020)

**Belgians are a bit snobbish about chocolate**

As far as Belgians are concerned, Belgium has the world's best chocolate.Giving foreign chocolate as a present can be taken as an insult by Belgians. After all, they are the ones who have the exceptionally best chocolate within the world. The truth is that Belgian chocolate is exceptionally great; much as well great really, and they are completely right to be glad of it.(Jurga,December 27 2020)

**Belgian national symbol is a peeing boy**

The Belgian national symbol is a peeing boy, Manneken Pis of Brussels.As a rule, he isn't dressed and nonnatives continuously discover it interesting. But the small fellow moreover has hundreds of diverse outfits for all sorts of events and some person takes the inconvenience of changing his dress two to three times a week.(Jurga,December 27 2020)

**The French-Belgians are prolific comic creators.**

You have without a doubt listened of, studied or observed enlivened or film adjustments of the Smurfs, Spirou and Fantasio, Tintin, Asterix, Blake and Mortimer, Thorgal, Gaston… the list is unending. Maybe more than half of your childhood came from Belgium!(James,october 1 2015)

**Belgian men are the second tallest in the world**

With a tallness of 181.7cm, only Dutchmen are taller at 182.5cm. The same can’t be said for Belgian ladies, in any case, who rank 21 at 165.5cm tall.(James,october 1 2015)

**Tourist Attractions in Belgium**

Brussels, the capital city, has numerous attractions and points of interest. Among these are the most important points of interest called 'Atomium' , the Regal Royal residence, the EU parliament buildings and Grand Place, also called Grote Markt. Comedian Craftsmanship Exhibition hall is one of the foremost prevalent exhibition halls in Belgium.(KIDS- WORLD-

TRAVEL-GUIDE.COM)

| **Mashnoor Navid**  **19304030** |  |
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**History:**

After the fall of the Roman Empire and the beginning of the middle age, the control and influence over the territories of Belgium were decreased and left isolated as well as defenseless. Hence, the lack of security was a good opportunity for the English and French and they invaded those lands. Then in 1815, when Emperor Napoleon was defeated in Waterloo, The leaders of the winning powers of Britain, Austria, Prussia and Russia summoned in Vienna to redistribute justice and influence over the territories of Belgium which were a part of France. In addition, the most significant decision was the creation of the United Kingdom of the Netherlands and the purpose was to serve as a buffer territory against any further French invasion. However, the decision was not fruitful for the long run and resulted in the Belgian revolution 15 years later. Under the leadership of King Leopold I, Belgium got divided on the basis of Protestant and Catholic. There was also a linguistic division between the French and Dutch. Therefore, On 20 December, 1830, Belgium became independent from the United Kingdom of Netherlands and received recognition from other European countries. The country was under Nazi occupation for months when Germany invaded Belgium, Luxembourg and Netherlands on 10 May, 1940. However, the British troops eliminated the invading force with the help of the Belgian Navy. After the war, the country faced hindrance to power up the economy and rebuilding infrastructure, but also received foreign aid.

The country now has adopted a unitary government system consisting of federal government and regional governments. Belgium has the most diverse population made up of multilingual groups who possess their very own intersections. So, to avoid social conflict and political instability, the framework of Belgian politics is made of constitutional monarchy, representative democracy and federal government. Belgium today is known as a rich and heavily industrialized nation in Europe. Organizations like the European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organization and Benelux Economic Union have established headquarters in the capital, Brussels.

**Land:**

The country has a total of 1385 Kilometers of land boundaries with its neighbors and they are Netherlands, Germany, France and Luxembourg. The country also possesses 60 kilometers of shoreline on the North Sea.

**Climate:**

Belgium has a maritime climate which is influenced by air masses from the Atlantic. The country has significant variability in weather due to the alteration of different air masses. In addition, the frontal conditions that move from the West produce heavy and frequent rainfall. Every year, averaging 30 to 40 inches of rainfall is produced. Also, the annual mean temperature of the country is 10 degree C.

**Economy:**

Historically, Brussels was famous as an economic zone during the occupation under the French. After the 13th century, the region became the center of trade where English wool was imported and processed into fine clothes. Furthermore, coal mines of Belgium played a significant role in the economy till the end of 19th century. The country’s economy was significantly dependent on agriculture until the industrial revolution took place. Moreover, Lace, an ornamental luxury fabric made in Belgium is an internationally recognized fabric that brought fortune to the region. But this traditional textile is extinct since the industry is dependent on an aging population of skilled women. However, specialized schools are established to train the young generation.

At the beginning of the 19th century, Belgium was a major steel producer in Europe but the industry became inefficient at the end of 20th century. The country was heading towards a crisis as the mineral resources like coal, iron ore and zinc deposits were exhausted. Now, the country imports coal for their steel industry and domestic heating.

Today, Belgium practices free market capitalism where the majority of gross domestic product comes from the service sectors. Through foreign investments and the cooperation of the government, tourism has seen rapid growth in the second half of the 20th century. Moreover, the country’s industrial sectors cover 1/6th of their total GDP. Refining the imported metallic ores are an important component of Belgium’s economy along with Chalk and limestone, sands, and clays. In addition, the major industries are metallurgy, textiles, steel, chemicals, glass, paper and food processing and worlds one of the leading processors of cobalt, radium, copper, zinc and lead. Also, the region Antwerp is renowned for diamond cutting and dealings. However, the agricultural sector is shrinking and contributes a very small portion of the economy. The major crops are sugar beets, Chicory, flax, cereal grains and potatoes. Agricultural activity in Belgium is based on livestock, dairy and meat products. The Fishing industry of Belgium is also relatively small and mostly consumed within the country.

**Conclusion:**

Belgium has been recognized as an investment friendly country due to its engineering sectors, refineries and services. By the influence of Belgian culture, cuisine and historical places, their tourism sector has gained significant popularity within Europe. Though the large population is made up of multilingual groups, the people in general are very friendly, honest and cooperative towards outsiders. As the country relies heavily on international trade, their government has been able to establish a Business Friendly environment so that they can attract more foreign investors. Though the country faces obstacles while preventing water pollution, Belgium is the best country in Europe to start a company or enjoy Belgian chocolates.

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