

# Question and Answer

My name is John Bautista, a Professor for Philippine Studies at the University of San Francisco . I travelled to the Philippines and interviewed the executive director of The National Historical Commission of the Philippines, Ludovico Badoy, to discover the answers of frequently asked questions from my students.

Q: Why do you think the Philippine literacy rate that was recorded in 2010 so high at 97.5%?(Cristobal)

A: The literacy rate in the Philippines must be very high because of how important education is in our culture. It is very similar to the United States because it is required for children to go to school. Also, the Department of Education is the largest government department which would cause the Philippines to have such a high literacy rate.

Q: If Spain converted the Philippines to Christianity 400 years ago, why do you think most of the population is Christian?

A: I think when the U.S. allowed freedom of religion, Christianity was already embedded within most of the families in the Philippines. Change would have been difficult since they already followed it with a passion (Bauzon).

Q: Which foreign influence do you think had the largest influence on the Philippines?

A: I think the U.S. had the largest influence on modern Philippines. Although Spain did occupy the Philippines much longer, the U.S. really implanted itself into the Philippines, by putting their language, government, and language into their way of life.