

**AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS
2013 SCORING GUIDELINES**

Question 2

3 points

One point is earned for correctly identifying **Statement X** as the empirical statement.

One point is earned for correctly identifying **Statement Y** as the normative statement.

One point is earned for a correct explanation of the difference between a normative and an empirical statement.

An acceptable explanation is:

Normative statements contain subjective or value-related judgments, while empirical statements contain factual or objective statements.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an off-task answer or an attempted answer that merits no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank answer.

2. Statement X: The rate of population growth has decreased in Iran since the 1990s.
Statement Y: Developing countries should adopt population growth policies similar to Iran's.

2A

Identify the empirical statement above. Identify the normative statement above. Explain the difference between a normative and an empirical statement.

An empirical statement is an objective statement based on facts. So Statement X is an empirical statement. This statement only states what happened without inferring any suggestions, opinions, or ideas. It is true that Iran's population growth has decreased since the 1990s, thus, this statement is empirical.

A normative statement on the other hand is a subjective statement that infers an idea, suggestion or opinion based on an analysis of the situation. So Statement Y is a normative statement because it is suggesting that other developing countries should follow Iran's lead on the issue of population growth.

2. Statement X: The rate of population growth has decreased in Iran since the 1990s. ^{therefore}
Statement Y: Developing countries should adopt population growth policies similar to Iran's.

Identify the empirical statement above. Identify the normative statement above. Explain the difference between a normative and an empirical statement.

This is a causal theory.

Statement X is the empirical statement.

Statement Y is the normative statement.

The normative statement is dependent on the empirical statement while the empirical statement remains independent.

- 2. Statement X: The rate of population growth has decreased in Iran since the 1990s.
Statement Y: Developing countries should adopt population growth policies similar to Iran's.

Identify the empirical statement above. Identify the normative statement above. Explain the difference between a normative and an empirical statement.

~~The rate of population growth has decreased dramatically since the 1990s due to the massacre of older people in the country and there not being enough people to give births.~~ The difference between a normative and empirical statement is that an empirical statement is giving the facts about a certain subject, while a normative statement what will/can/should be done about the problem given in the facts of an empirical statement.

AP[®] COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

2013 SCORING COMMENTARY

Question 2

Overview

The intent of this question was to assess student understanding and application of normative and empirical perspectives. The skills tested were conceptual and analytical: to apply theoretical concepts and to distinguish between normative, or value-related, statements and empirical, or factual, statements. The students had three specific tasks: to identify a given statement as either normative or empirical, to identify a second statement as either normative or empirical, and to explain the difference between empirical and normative assertions.

Sample: 2A

Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying statement X as the empirical statement.

A second point was earned for correctly identifying statement Y as the normative statement.

The response earned a third point for correctly explaining that an empirical statement is “an objective statement based on facts,” while a normative statement “is a subjective statement that infers [*sic*] an idea, suggestion or opinion”.

Sample: 2B

Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying statement X as the empirical statement.

A second point was earned for correctly identifying statement Y as the normative statement.

The response does not correctly explain the difference between empirical and normative statements and therefore did not earn the point.

Sample: 2C

Score: 1

The response does not identify which statement is empirical and did not earn a point.

The response does not identify which statement is normative and did not earn a point.

The response earned a point for correctly explaining that an empirical statement “is giving the facts” while a normative statement is “what will/can/should be done”.