

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.

2 A

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~~ is an empirical statement. This statement only states what happened without inferring any suggestions, opinions, or ~~ideas~~ 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 ~~is~~ 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 author 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 birth.~~ 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”.