

**AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS**  
**2015 SCORING GUIDELINES**

**Question 5**

**3 points**

One point is earned for a correct empirical statement using data from the graph.

An acceptable statement may include:

- Sixty percent of Russians are not satisfied with the way things are going.
- Thirty percent of Russians are satisfied with the way things are going.
- More Russians are dissatisfied with the way things are going than are satisfied.

One point is earned for a correct normative statement using data from the graph.

An acceptable statement may include:

- Russia should change to a parliamentary system to satisfy the 60 percent of the population who are unhappy with the way things are going.
- Russians need to have a revolution because they are dissatisfied.
- Russia shouldn't change anything because 30 percent of the people are satisfied.
- Russia ought to become a democracy to address citizens' discontent.
- Based on the data, Russia's political system is terrible.

Note: The empirical and normative statements above are not exhaustive. The response must use data from the graph to earn credit.

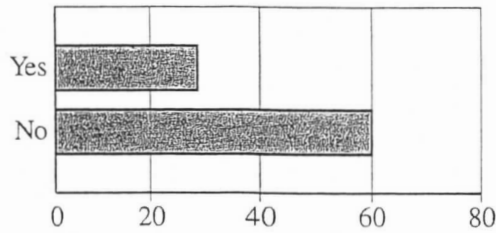
One point is earned for correctly identifying an **empirical** statement as the type of statement that a political scientist would use to make a factual argument.

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

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

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO WERE ASKED IF THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN RUSSIA

SAI



Source: Pew Research Global Attitudes Project, 2011

5. Write an empirical statement using the data from the graph above. Write a normative statement using the data from the graph above. Identify which type of statement a political scientist would use to make a factual argument: empirical or normative.

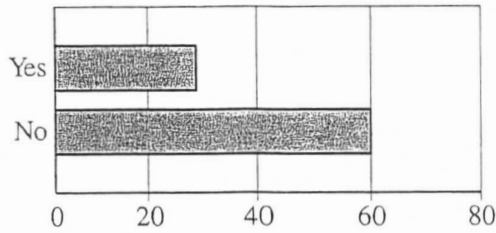
Empirical: 60% of respondents said that they were not satisfied with the political situation in Russia.

Normative: The Russian government should change their policies because people aren't satisfied with the political situation in Russia.

A political scientist would use an empirical statement to make a factual argument.

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO  
WERE ASKED IF THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH  
THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN RUSSIA

5B1



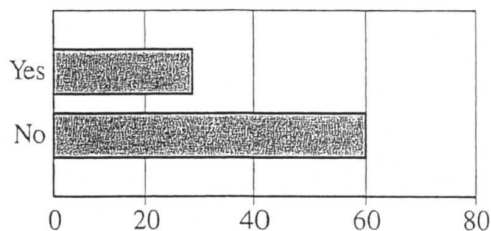
Source: Pew Research Global Attitudes Project, 2011

5. Write an empirical statement using the data from the graph above. Write a normative statement using the data from the graph above. Identify which type of statement a political scientist would use to make a factual argument: empirical or normative.

An empirical statement would be that 60% of respondents are not satisfied with the political situation in Russia. A normative statement would be that the majority of Russians are not satisfied with the political situation in Russia. If ~~they~~ a political scientist was going to make a factual argument, they would use an empirical statement because it includes specific statistics.

PERCENTAGE OF RESPONDENTS WHO WERE ASKED IF THEY WERE SATISFIED WITH THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN RUSSIA

SCI



Source: Pew Research Global Attitudes Project, 2011

5. Write an empirical statement using the data from the graph above. Write a normative statement using the data from the graph above. Identify which type of statement a political scientist would use to make a factual argument: empirical or normative.

60 Sixty percent of respondents who were asked if they were satisfied with the political situation in Russia said No. 28 Forty percent of respondents who were asked if they were satisfied with the political situation in Russia said Yes. Political scientists would use ~~empirical~~ normative to show how little amount of ~~popu~~ the population the Russian government's actions satisfy.

# AP<sup>®</sup> COMPARATIVE GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

## 2015 SCORING COMMENTARY

### Question 5

#### 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 write an empirical statement using the data in the graph, to write a normative statement using the data in the graph, and to identify which type of statement a political scientist would use when making a factual argument.

#### Sample: 5A

##### Score: 3

The response earned 1 point for a correctly written empirical statement using the data from the graph by stating that “60% of respondents said that they were not satisfied with the political situation in Russia.” The response earned 1 point for a correctly written normative statement using the data from the graph by stating that “[t]he Russian government should change their policies because people aren’t satisfied with the political situation in Russia.” The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying that “a political scientist would use an empirical statement to make a factual argument.”

#### Sample: 5B

##### Score: 2

The response earned 1 point for a correctly written empirical statement using the data from the graph by stating that “60% of respondents are not satisfied with the political situation in Russia.” The response does not have a correctly written normative statement. The response earned 1 point for correctly identifying that “[i]f a political scientist was going to make a factual argument, they would use an empirical statement.”

#### Sample: 5C

##### Score: 1

The response earned 1 point for a correctly written empirical statement using the data from the graph by stating that “[s]ixty percent of respondents who were asked if they were satisfied with the political situation in Russia said No [sic].” The response does not have a correctly written normative statement. The response does not correctly identify an empirical statement as the type of statement a political scientist would use to make a factual argument.