

# Describe vs. Explain

What would my score on each of these answers be? Use the language of the rubric.

## #1: Travis' answer to: Describe one cultural dimension.

One cultural dimension is individualism/collectivism. This could affect conformity as shown in Bond and Smith's meta-analysis of Asch line-length paradigm studies.

A cultural dimension is a group of related cultural values. One cultural dimension includes values at two ends of a spectrum, so the cultural dimension of individualism/collectivism has individualistic values at one end of this spectrum and collectivistic values at the other. The different values of this cultural dimension are summarized in the table below.

Individualism Values	Collectivism Values
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have an identity that comes from their individuality</li><li>• Loose ties between individuals (look after yourself and your immediate family)</li><li>• Competition exists between individuals and is encouraged</li><li>• Confrontations are okay and can sometimes be viewed as healthy</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Identity is defined by relationships with others and belonging to various groups</li><li>• Form strong in-groups. This could be the immediate family, extended family, tribe, village or whole community</li><li>• Competition is between whole groups</li><li>• Value harmony in the in-group, even if some members disagree - the group harmony is important</li></ul>

Talhelm et al. (2014) proposed a theory that the differences in staple crops (rice vs. wheat) could explain the reasons for differences in the value placed on conformity and co-operation compared to independence. Rice is a labor-intensive grain - with traditional methods, it required co-operation from the whole village for sowing and harvesting, as well as sharing waterways, which would encourage collectivist values of co-operation and social harmony. Wheat, on the other hand, could be grown by a single farmer, so self-reliance and independence are more beneficial, leading to more individualistic values.

The effects of individualism and collectivism on conformity can be Bond and Smith's study. They collected the data from 17 countries and a total of 133 studies that used the Asch paradigm. They correlated levels of conformity with individualism/collectivism scores. The results showed that countries high on the individualistic scale like the UK, the USA and France had lower rates of conformity, whereas countries high on the collectivistic scale like Hong Kong, Fiji and Japan had higher rates of conformity. There are multiple possible explanations for these results, including the differences placed on group harmony.

In summary, individualism/collectivism is one commonly studied cultural dimension that may have an effect on human behavior. (350 words)

## #2: Travis' answer to: Explain one cultural dimension.

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