Consider these three policy questions that face or have recently faced U.S. policymakers.

A. Should we raise the minimum wage to $15 per hour nationwide?
B. Should we allow the CIA to employ waterboarding and other “enhanced interrogation” techniques?
C. Should we open a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in the U.S.?

1. For each of these three policy questions, identify an empirical question whose answer helps inform the debate.

   Example: For the following policy question, any of the three empirical questions given would constitute a correct answer:

   Policy Question: Should same-sex marriage be legal in the United States?

   Empirical Question: Are children raised by same-sex couples at an advantage or a disadvantage relative to children raised by heterosexual couples?

   Empirical Question: Are same-sex marriages more or less likely than heterosexual marriages to end in divorce?

   Empirical Question: Does non-recognition by the government damage the psychological well-being of same-sex couples?

2. For two out of the three empirical questions you have written above, I want you answer each of the following sub-questions (i.e. you should go through this exercise twice).

   A. How conclusive is the empirical evidence in this area? (1-3 sentences)

   B. What social pressures do you face to answer the empirical question one way or the other? (1-3 sentences)

   C. How do these (potentially conflicting) pressures affect your ability to interpret the empirical evidence with regard to this empirical question? (1-3 sentences)