2.8 Causation in the Age of Reformation and the Wars of Religion

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 24 marks**

KEY WORDS causation • long-term cause • trigger • thesis • line of reasoning • Defenestration of Prague

Objective

Build the skills to write a **causation** argument about Unit 2: weighing the religious, political, economic and social causes of the Reformation and the wars of religion.

You must be able to:

- sort causes into religious, political, economic and social
- weigh causes against each other and reach a judgement
- write a thesis with a clear line of reasoning

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Causes of the Reformation's success

kind	example
religious	anger at indulgences and corrupt clergy; desire for a personal faith based on the Bible
political	German princes wanting independence from the emperor; Henry VIII wanting an annulment and control of the Church
economic	rulers wanting Church lands and wealth; resentment of money sent to Rome
technological	printing spread Luther's ideas faster than the Church could stop them
social	towns and humanist-educated people open to new ideas; peasants hoping for social change

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Ask: **which cause explains the timing?** (why 1517, not 1415, when Jan Hus was burned). Printing and princely protection help explain why Luther survived when Hus did not. Ask: **which cause made others possible?** Without princes' protection, printed ideas might still have been crushed.

A thesis

"Although religious anger at the Church gave the Reformation its message, the support of German princes was the main reason it survived, because it protected Luther and his followers from the emperor."

Answer shapes: a thesis; evidence for at least two causes; a reason one mattered more.

2 Practice

2.1 Identify one religious and one political cause of the Reformation's success. [2]



2.2 Explain why Luther survived in 1521 when Jan Hus had been burned in 1415. [3]



2.3 Explain how economic motives helped some rulers adopt Protestantism. [3]



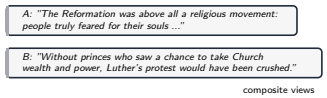
3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Read the two views.

> **A:** "The Reformation was above all a religious movement: people truly feared for their souls and wanted a purer faith."
>
> **B:** "Without princes who saw a chance to take Church wealth and power, Luther's protest would have been crushed like Hus's."

Summaries of the views of two historians (composite)

(a) Identify the main cause given in view B. [1]



(b) Identify one piece of evidence that supports view A. [1]

(c) Explain one way the two views can be combined. [1]

3.2 The diagram shows causes of the Thirty Years' War.

(a) Identify the event that started the war in 1618. [1]

(b) Explain how the Peace of Augsburg (1555) was a long-term cause of the war. [2]

(c) Explain how Habsburg power was a cause of the war. [2]

(d) Explain why foreign powers joined the war. [2]

(e) Explain how two of the causes in the diagram are connected. [3]



(f) Evaluate the most important cause of the Thirty Years' War. [3]

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