

1.11 Causation in the Renaissance and Age of Discovery

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

KEY WORDS causation 因果

Objective

Build the skills to write **causation** 因果 answers for this period.

You must be able to:

- distinguish a cause from a condition and from a trigger
- rank causes and justify the ranking
- handle a question asking for the most important cause
- avoid a list of causes with no argument

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Three kinds

A **condition** must be in place for the outcome to be possible. A **cause** actively produces it. A **trigger** determines the timing. Exploration required ship technology (condition), commercial demand (cause) and state rivalry (which often set the timing).

■ Ranking

A ranking needs a criterion: without which cause would the outcome not have occurred at all? Name your criterion before ranking, or the ranking is only a preference.

■ Most important

Answer the question asked: name one cause, argue for it against a named rival, and concede what the rival explains better. A list is not an answer to 'most important'.

2 Practice

2.1 State the difference between a condition and a cause. [2]

2.2 State what a ranking of causes requires. [2]

2.3 Question: "What was the most important cause of European overseas expansion?"

(a) Name your cause and your criterion. [2]

(b) Name the strongest rival cause. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Ship design suitable for ocean voyages is best classified as [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** a trigger
B a condition
C an outcome
D a criterion

3.2 A list of five causes with no argument answers a "most important" question [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** fully
B not at all
C better than one cause
D if the list is long enough

3.3 A student argues commercial demand was the most important cause.

(a) State one concession they should make.

[1]

(b) Explain how conceding strengthens the answer.

[2]
