

Exercise walk-through

1.7

Causation in Period 1

AP United States History

Which reasoning is missing?

Consider three student statements about Spanish colonial labour:

- A Colonists sought wealth from agriculture and mining.
- B Disease killed many Native people; colonial labour demands continued.
- C Disease alone created African slavery in the Americas.

Which describes a motive or setting? Which begins a causal explanation? Which overclaims? Improve the explanation using demand, decisions and trade networks.

Build the explanation, then qualify it

Context gives relevant wider circumstances. **Contextualization** explains how they relate to a development. **Causation** explains how and why it happened.

A identifies the search for wealth. **B** links population loss to pressure on labour supply, while agriculture and mining still required workers.

C goes too far. European traders and colonists forcibly obtained and exploited enslaved Africans through existing networks. Profits and coercive choices also mattered. Disease was not a complete explanation or a justification.

Compare societies with specific evidence

Compare livelihoods in the Southwest and Great Basin before European contact.

Give one difference, explain an environmental connection, and avoid saying that all Native American societies were the same.

Before answering: select the regions, identify the relevant evidence, and decide whether the task needs description, comparison or a causal explanation. Historical questions can also ask about sources and arguments.

From evidence to a comparison

Southwest: maize agriculture and irrigation supported permanent settlement.

Great Basin: arid conditions encouraged mobile hunting and gathering.

Connection: different conditions helped shape different livelihoods. Name both sides of the comparison and explain the difference.

These are regional patterns, not a claim that every community within a region was identical. “Native Americans farmed” loses the distinction the question asks for.

Improve context for an exam-linked prompt

2023 Set 1, LEQ2 (paraphrased): evaluate change from transatlantic trade in British North American colonial society, **1607–1776**. We practise its context requirement here, not a full essay.

A student opens: *“Europeans travelled across the ocean. Many things happened before 1607.”*

Why is this too general? Write a short opening that connects earlier Spanish colonization, the search for wealth and later English colonial investment.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 Name one effect in the Americas and one in Europe. [2]

2.2 Distinguish an effect from a subsequent event. [2]

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 Name one effect in the Americas and one in Europe. [2]

2.1

- any one from each side, e.g. epidemics devastating native populations; European population growth from new crops
-

2.2 Distinguish an effect from a subsequent event. [2]

2.2

- an effect is caused by the thing; a subsequent event merely follows it in time

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Effects can be ranked.

(a) Name two criteria.

[2]

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 Effects can be ranked.

(a) Name two criteria.

[2]

(a)

- any two of: number of people affected; duration; irreversibility

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Effects can be ranked.

(b) State the test for whether something is an effect.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 Effects can be ranked.

(b) State the test for whether something is an effect.

[1]

(b)

- whether it would have occurred without the voyages

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 The LO asks for the effects of transatlantic voyages

[1]

☐

A on both sides of the Atlantic

B in Europe only

C in the Americas only

D in Africa only

3.2 The test for an effect is whether the event

[1]

☐

A would have occurred without the cause

B happened later

C was recorded

D was intended

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 The LO asks for the effects of transatlantic voyages

[1]

☐

A on both sides of the Atlantic

B in Europe only

C in the Americas only

D in Africa only

3.1 A

- the CED covers both sides

3.2 The test for an effect is whether the event

[1]

☐

A would have occurred without the cause

B happened later

C was recorded

D was intended

3.2 A

- the counterfactual test

Exercise 3.3

3.3 Write a paragraph ranking two effects of transatlantic voyages against a stated criterion.

[4]

Exercise 3.3

3.3 Write a paragraph ranking two effects of transatlantic voyages against a stated criterion. [4]

3.3

- the criterion stated; two effects with evidence; a ranking; the ranking justified by the criterion rather than asserted