

9.7 Causation in Period 9

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 14 marks

Objective

Build the skills to explain **causation** 因果 in period 9.

You must be able to:

- state what a causation question asks
- name a cause and an effect from the period's key concepts
- state a criterion for ranking causes
- use the CED's own qualifiers to limit a judgment

1 Worked examples

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

■ The question

Why something happened, with the connection shown. Narrating what followed is not a causal explanation.

■ A chain from the CED

Improvements in digital communications (KC-9.2) → increased participation in world-wide economic opportunities and rising productivity → employment shifting from manufacturing to services and declining union membership → stagnating real wages amid growing inequality.

■ Ranking

Where several causes are available, name a criterion —necessity, proximity, scale — and rank against it. The CED's own "all important" in 9.3 is a refusal to rank, and noticing that is itself analysis.

■ Limits

"Some of their efforts", "many programs remained popular", "despite economic and foreign policy challenges" —the qualifiers keep a judgment proportionate to what the source claims.

2 Practice

2.1 State what a causation question asks for. [2]

2.2 Set out a causal chain from the period's key concepts. [3]

2.3 Judgments must be limited.

(a) Name two criteria for ranking causes. [2]

(b) State what "all important" in 9.3 does. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A causation answer must show [1]

- **A** the connection between cause and outcome
- **B** the sequence only
- **C** the date
- **D** the source

3.2 "All important" in the CED's account of the Cold War's end is [1]

- **A** a refusal to rank the causes
- **B** a ranking
- **C** a denial of causation
- **D** a chronology

3.3 Write a paragraph explaining one cause of stagnating real wages after 1980. [4]

4 Go further

- work through the **9.7 Causation in Period 9** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Period 9: 1980-Present** section of the AP US History handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 why something happened, with the connection between cause and outcome shown rather than narrated.

2.2 improvements in digital communications raising productivity and worldwide participation; employment shifting from manufacturing to services with union membership declining; real wages stagnating amid growing inequality.

2.3 (a) any two of: necessity; proximity; scale. (b) it refuses to rank the three causes against each other.

3.1 A. the connection.

3.2 A. a refusal to rank.

3.3 a cause named; evidence from the period; the connection to stagnating wages explained; the claim limited rather than absolute.