

Exercise walk-through

7.9

Causation in Global Conflict

AP World History: Modern

Causation in Global Conflict

The unit's reasoning skill is **causation**, and specifically the **relative significance** of causes.

That word "relative" is the whole task: you are not listing causes, you are ranking them and defending the ranking.

Worked example – a similarity evidenced on both sides

“Explain one similarity between the ways governments conducted World War I and World War II.”

- **Full marks:** *“Both wars were total wars in which governments mobilised entire economies and populations. In both, states used propaganda to sustain public support, directed industrial production toward war material, and recruited soldiers and labourers from their colonies.”*
- A similarity claim must be **evidenced on both sides**.

Evidence from one war only cannot demonstrate a similarity, however good the evidence is.

Exam tips

- For the collapse of the Ottoman, Russian, and Qing empires, always pair internal strain with external pressure. One alone is half an answer.
- Separate what made World War I likely (imperial competition, nationalism, regional conflict) from what made it global (the alliance system).
- Total war has a checklist: propaganda, nationalism, economic mobilisation, colonial recruitment. Use it for both wars and the comparison writes itself.
- The interwar economy is a spectrum of state involvement, not a single policy. Say how far a state went, not just that it intervened.
- Comparison questions need evidence on both sides. A detail about only one case cannot support a similarity or a difference.
- "Relative significance" means rank and justify. A list of causes with no argument about which mattered most does not answer the question asked.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

2.1 State what a relative-significance question asks for. [2]

2.2 State how the CED itself weights the causes of World War II. [2]

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2.1

- a weighting of causes rather than a list
-

2.2 State how the CED itself weights the causes of World War II. [2]

2.2

- it names four causes and marks the rise of fascist and totalitarian regimes with “especially”

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 A weighting needs a criterion.

(a) Name two possible criteria.

[2]

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2.3 A weighting needs a criterion.

(a) Name two possible criteria.

[2]

(a)

- any two of: necessity; proximity in time; scale of effect

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A weighting needs a criterion.

(b) State the common error.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 A weighting needs a criterion.

(b) State the common error.

[1]

(b)

- listing causes at length without weighing them

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 The CED's own weighting word in 7.6 is

[1]

☐

A especially

B possibly

C rarely

D equally

3.2 A relative-significance answer's core is

[1]

☐

A a list of causes

B a sentence saying which mattered most and why

C a chronology

D a definition

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 The CED's own weighting word in 7.6 is

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3.1 A

- “especially”

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3.2 B

- the weighting sentence

Exercise 3.3

3.3 Write a paragraph weighing two causes of one 20th-century global conflict. [4]

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3.3

- the criterion stated; two causes with evidence; a weighting of the two; the weighting justified by the criterion rather than asserted