

Exercise walk-through

Causation in Global Conflict ■ 7.9

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what the question asks for
- use the CED's own ranking as a model
- state a criterion for ranking causes
- avoid listing causes without weighing them

Method — The question

“Explain the **relative significance** of the causes of global conflict” asks for a weighting, not a list. The answer’s core is a sentence saying which mattered most and why.

Method — The CED's own ranking

7.6 says “**especially** the rise to power of fascist and totalitarian regimes”. The source itself weights its causes, which both licenses the move and models it.

Method — A criterion

Name one: necessity (would the conflict have occurred without it?), proximity in time, or scale of effect. The same causes rank differently under each.

Method — The common error

Listing four causes at length and never weighing them. The weighting sentence is the answer; the evidence supports it.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what a relative-significance question asks for.

Solution 2.1

Method: The question

Worked steps

a weighting of causes **B1** rather than a list **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State how the CED itself weights the causes of World War II.

Solution 2.2

Method: The CED's own ranking

Worked steps

it names four causes **B1** and marks the rise of fascist and totalitarian regimes with “especially” **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

A weighting needs a criterion.

- (a) Name two possible criteria.
- (b) State the common error.

Solution 2.3

Method: The common error

Worked steps

(a) any two of: necessity; proximity in time; scale of effect **B2**. (b) listing causes at length without weighing them **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The CED's own weighting word in 7.6 is

A especially

B possibly

C rarely

D equally

Solution 3.1

A especially



B possibly

C rarely

D equally

Worked steps

A. “especially”.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

A relative-significance answer's core is

- A** a list of causes
- B** a sentence saying which mattered most and why
- C** a chronology
- D** a definition

Solution 3.2

Method: The question

- A a list of causes
- B a sentence saying which mattered most and why 
- C a chronology
- D a definition

Worked steps

- B. the weighting sentence.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Write a paragraph weighing two causes of one 20th-century global conflict.

Solution 3.3

Method: The question

Worked steps

the criterion stated **B1**; two causes with evidence **B1**; a weighting of the two **B1**; the weighting justified by the criterion rather than asserted **B1**.