

6.1 Rationales for Imperialism from 1750 to 1900

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

KEY WORDS civilising mission 文明教化使命 • social darwinism 社会达尔文主义
• justifications for imperialism 帝国主义的辩护 • economic imperialism 经济帝国主义
• raw materials 原材料

Objective

Build the skills to explain **justifications for imperialism** 帝国主义的辩护.

You must be able to:

- name the four ideologies the CED lists
- state the CED’s careful verb about them
- distinguish a justification from a cause
- explain why studying a justification is not endorsing it

1 Worked examples

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

■ **Four ideologies**

A range of cultural, religious and racial ideologies were used to justify imperialism, including **Social Darwinism, nationalism, the concept of the civilising mission, and the desire to religiously convert indigenous populations.**

■ **The verb**

They **were used to justify**. The CED does not say they caused imperialism; it says they were the reasons given for it — which is a claim about rhetoric, and it is deliberate.

■ **Justification and cause**

A **cause** explains why something happened; a **justification** explains how it was defended. 6.4 and 6.5 supply economic causes; 6.1 supplies the language used about them.

■ **Studying, not endorsing**

Naming a justification accurately — including a racial one — is describing what was said. The historian’s task is to report the argument and then examine what it concealed.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the four ideologies the CED lists. [2]

2.2 Distinguish a justification from a cause. [2]

2.3 The CED says the ideologies “were used to justify”.

(a) State what this claim is about. [1]

(b) State where the economic causes are found. [2]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The concept of the civilising mission is [1]

- **A** an economic cause
- **B** a justification
- **C** a technology
- **D** a treaty

3.2 Social Darwinism belongs to the CED's

[1]

- **A** cultural, religious and racial ideologies
 - **B** transport technologies
 - **C** labour systems
 - **D** migration patterns
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3.3 A government explains a conquest as a duty to improve the conquered.

(a) State what kind of claim this is.

[1]

(b) Explain what a historian should do with it.

[2]

Solutions

2.1 Social Darwinism; nationalism; the civilising mission; the desire to religiously convert indigenous populations.

2.2 a cause explains why something happened; a justification explains how it was defended.

2.3 (a) the reasons given for imperialism, that is its rhetoric. (b) 6.4's demand for raw materials and food and 6.5's economic imperialism.

3.1 B. a justification.

3.2 A. the CED's own grouping.

3.3 (a) a justification. (b) report it accurately as what was said and examine what it concealed about the actual causes.