

7.6 Causes of World War II

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

KEY WORDS global economic crisis 全球经济危机 • unsustainable peace settlement 和约
• great depression 大萧条 • relative significance 相对重要性

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **causes of World War II** 二战的原因.

You must be able to:

- name the four causes the CED lists
- state which cause the CED emphasises and how
- explain what 'unsustainable' claims about the peace
- connect each cause to an earlier subtopic

1 Worked examples

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

■ Four causes

The unsustainable peace settlement after World War I; the global economic crisis engendered by the Great Depression; continued imperialist aspirations; and especially the rise to power of fascist and totalitarian regimes that resulted in the aggressive militarism of Nazi Germany under Adolf Hitler.

■ The emphasis

“**Especially**” ranks one cause above the others. The CED rarely does this, so reproducing the ranking is reproducing the source’s own argument.

■ ‘Unsustainable’

Not merely unpopular or unfair: a settlement that could not hold. The claim is about the arrangement’s viability, not about anyone’s feelings.

■ Earlier sources

The peace settlement follows 7.2’s war; the economic crisis follows 7.4’s Depression; imperialist aspirations follow 7.5’s maintained empires. Each cause has a subtopic behind it.

2 Practice

2.1 Name the four causes. [2]

2.2 State which cause the CED emphasises and the word it uses. [2]

2.3 Each cause has an earlier source.

(a) Match two causes to their subtopics. [2]

(b) Explain what “unsustainable” claims. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The CED’s emphasis falls on [1]

- **A** the peace settlement
- **B** the rise to power of fascist and totalitarian regimes
- **C** the Depression
- **D** imperialist aspirations

3.2 “Unsustainable” describes a settlement that [1]

- **A** was unpopular
- **B** could not hold
- **C** was never signed
- **D** was too generous

3.3 A student lists the four causes without ranking them.

(a) State what has been lost. [1]

(b) Explain why the ranking is part of the CED's claim. [2]

Solutions

2.1 the unsustainable peace settlement; the global economic crisis from the Depression; continued imperialist aspirations; the rise to power of fascist and totalitarian regimes.

2.2 the rise of fascist and totalitarian regimes, marked by “especially”.

2.3 (a) the peace settlement follows 7.2; the economic crisis follows 7.4. (b) that the arrangement could not hold, whatever anyone felt about it.

3.1 B. “especially” names it.

3.2 B. viability, not popularity.

3.3 (a) the CED's own weighting. (b) “especially” is an argument about relative significance, which is exactly what unit 7's final subtopic asks for.