

7.9 Causation in Global Conflict

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 13 marks**

KEY WORDS relative significance 相对重要性 • relative significance of causes 原因的相对重要性

Objective

Build the skills to judge the **relative significance of causes** 原因的相对重要性.

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

1 Worked examples

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

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ The common error

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

2 Practice

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]

2.3 A weighting needs a criterion.

(a) Name two possible criteria. [2]

(b) State the common error. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

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

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

Solutions

2.1 a weighting of causes rather than a list.

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

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

3.1 A. “especially”.

3.2 B. the weighting sentence.

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