

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

**3.2** Social Darwinism belongs to the CED's [1]

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A cultural, religious and racial ideologies  
B transport technologies  
C labour systems  
D migration patterns

**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]

---

---

---