

7.2 Causes of World War I

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS intense nationalism 极端民族主义 • flawed alliance system 结盟体系
• territorial and regional conflicts 领土与地区冲突 • escalation 升级
• competition for resources 资源竞争

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **causes of World War I** 一战的原因.

You must be able to:

- name the four causes the CED lists
- explain the word 'combined' in the CED's sentence
- state what 'escalate' claims about the conflict's scale
- distinguish a trigger from a cause

1 Worked examples

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

■ Four causes

Imperialist expansion and competition for resources; territorial and regional conflicts; a flawed alliance system; and intense nationalism.

■ 'Combined'

Territorial and regional conflicts **combined with** a flawed alliance system and intense nationalism to escalate the tensions into global conflict. The causes act together — no one of them produces the outcome alone.

■ 'Escalate'

The tensions were escalated **into global conflict**. The CED's structure is: existing tensions plus a mechanism that magnified them. That is why the alliance system is described as flawed rather than as a cause on its own.

■ Trigger and cause

A trigger starts an event at a particular moment; a cause makes it possible. The alliance system converted a regional conflict into a global one, which is a mechanism of escalation rather than a starting point.

2 Practice

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

2.2 Explain the force of “combined”. [2]

2.3 The alliance system is described as flawed.

(a) State what it did to the conflict. [2]

(b) Distinguish a trigger from a cause. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The CED describes the alliance system as [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** effective
B flawed
C absent
D new

3.2 “Escalate the tensions into global conflict” indicates that the tensions were [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** created in 1914
B already present and then magnified
C resolved
D imaginary

3.3 A regional dispute becomes a world war within weeks.

(a) Name the mechanism the CED gives. [1]

(b) Explain why this is escalation rather than causation. [2]
