

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 | B |
| C | D |
- 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 | B |
| C | D |
- 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]
