

Exercise walk-through

Causation in Period 9 ■ 9.7

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what a causation question asks
- name a cause and an effect from the period's key concepts
- state a criterion for ranking causes
- use the CED's own qualifiers to limit a judgment

Method — The question

Why something happened, with the connection shown. Narrating what followed is not a causal explanation.

Method — A chain from the CED

Improvements in digital communications (KC-9.2) → increased participation in worldwide economic opportunities and rising productivity → employment shifting from manufacturing to services and declining union membership → stagnating real wages amid growing inequality.

Method — Ranking

Where several causes are available, name a criterion — necessity, proximity, scale — and rank against it. The CED's own “all important” in 9.3 is a refusal to rank, and noticing that is itself analysis.

Method — Limits

“Some of their efforts”, “many programs remained popular”, “despite economic and foreign policy challenges” — the qualifiers keep a judgment proportionate to what the source claims.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what a causation question asks for.

Solution 2.1

Worked steps

why something happened **B1**, with the connection between cause and outcome shown rather than narrated **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 3 marks

Set out a causal chain from the period's key concepts.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

improvements in digital communications raising productivity and worldwide participation **B1**; employment shifting from manufacturing to services with union membership declining **B1**; real wages stagnating amid growing inequality **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

Judgments must be limited.

- (a) Name two criteria for ranking causes.
- (b) State what “all important” in 9.3 does.

Solution 2.3

Method: Ranking

Worked steps

(a) any two of: necessity; proximity; scale **B2**. (b) it refuses to rank the three causes against each other **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

A causation answer must show

- A** the connection between cause and outcome
- B** the sequence only
- C** the date
- D** the source

Solution 3.1

A the connection between cause and outcome



B the sequence only

C the date

D the source

Worked steps

A. the connection.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

“All important” in the CED’s account of the Cold War’s end is

A a refusal to rank the causes

B a ranking

C a denial of causation

D a chronology

Solution 3.2

A a refusal to rank the causes



B a ranking

C a denial of causation

D a chronology

Worked steps

A. a refusal to rank.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 4 marks

Write a paragraph explaining one cause of stagnating real wages after 1980.

Solution 3.3

Method: A chain from the CED

Worked steps

a cause named **B1**; evidence from the period **B1**; the connection to stagnating wages explained **B1**; the claim limited rather than absolute **B1**.