

Exercise walk-through

Causes of World War I ■ 7.2

eXercise

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

Method — Four causes

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

Method — '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.

Method — '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.

Method — 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.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

Name the four causes the CED lists.

Solution 2.1

Method: Four causes

Worked steps

imperialist expansion and competition for resources; territorial and regional conflicts; a flawed alliance system; intense nationalism **B2**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain the force of “combined”.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

the causes acted together **B1**; no one of them produces the outcome alone **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

The alliance system is described as flawed.

- (a) State what it did to the conflict.
- (b) Distinguish a trigger from a cause.

Solution 2.3

Method: 'Escalate'

Worked steps

(a) it combined with other tensions to escalate them into global conflict **B2**. (b) a trigger starts an event at a moment; a cause makes it possible **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

The CED describes the alliance system as

A effective

B flawed

C absent

D new

Solution 3.1

A effective

B flawed 

C absent

D new

Worked steps

B. the CED's own adjective.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

“Escalate the tensions into global conflict” indicates that the tensions were

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

Solution 3.2

Method: 'Escalate'

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



Worked steps

- B. escalation presupposes existing tension.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

A regional dispute becomes a world war within weeks.

- (a) Name the mechanism the CED gives.
- (b) Explain why this is escalation rather than causation.

Solution 3.3

Method: Trigger and cause

Worked steps

(a) the flawed alliance system **B1**. (b) it did not create the dispute **B1** but converted a regional conflict into a global one **B1**.