

6.8 Causation in the Imperial Age

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 14 marks

KEY WORDS relative significance 相对重要性 • economic imperialism 经济帝国主义

Objective

Build the skills to judge **relative significance** 相对重要性.

You must be able to:

- state what 'relative significance' asks for
- name three effects of imperialism from different key concepts
- state a criterion for ranking effects
- avoid listing effects without ranking them

1 Worked examples

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

■ The question

“Explain the **relative significance** of the effects of imperialism” asks you to rank, not to list. A ranking needs a stated criterion.

■ Three effects

Economic (KC-5.2): export economies and economic imperialism reorganised whole economies. **Demographic** (KC-5.4): migration patterns changed dramatically and migrant numbers increased significantly. **Political** (KC-5.3): anticolonial movements and new nation-states.

■ A criterion

Choose one and say so: duration, number of people affected, or irreversibility. The same three effects rank differently under each — which is why naming the criterion is the analytical move.

■ The common error

Writing four paragraphs of effects and never saying which mattered most. The ranking sentence is what answers the question.

2 Practice

2.1 State what “relative significance” asks for. [2]

2.2 Name three effects of imperialism of different kinds. [3]

2.3 A ranking needs a criterion.

(a) Name two possible criteria. [2]

(b) State why naming one is the analytical move. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A relative-significance answer must [1]

- **A** list effects
- **B** rank them against a stated criterion
- **C** describe causes
- **D** define terms

3.2 KC-5.4 concerns [1]

- **A** migration patterns
- **B** industrial capitalism
- **C** revolutions
- **D** overseas empires

3.3 Write a paragraph ranking two effects of imperialism against a stated criterion. [4]

Solutions

2.1 a ranking of effects against a stated criterion, not a list.

2.2 economic — export economies and economic imperialism; demographic — dramatically changed migration patterns; political — anticolonial movements and new nation-states.

2.3 (a) any two of: duration; number of people affected; irreversibility. (b) the same effects rank differently under different criteria.

3.1 B. ranking against a criterion.

3.2 A. migration.

3.3 the criterion stated; two effects with evidence; a ranking of the two; the ranking justified by the criterion rather than asserted.