

## 7.6 Causes of World War II

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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

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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

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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

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**2.1** Name the four causes. [2]

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**2.2** State which cause the CED emphasises and the word it uses. [2]

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**2.3** Each cause has an earlier source.

(a) Match two causes to their subtopics. [2]

(b) Explain what “unsustainable” claims. [1]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** The CED’s emphasis falls on [1]

- **A** the peace settlement
- **B** the rise to power of fascist and totalitarian regimes
- **C** the Depression
- **D** imperialist aspirations

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**3.2** “Unsustainable” describes a settlement that [1]

- **A** was unpopular
- **B** could not hold
- **C** was never signed
- **D** was too generous

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**3.3** A student lists the four causes without ranking them.

(a) State what has been lost. [1]

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(b) Explain why the ranking is part of the CED's claim.

[2]

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## Solutions

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**2.1** the unsustainable peace settlement; the global economic crisis from the Depression; continued imperialist aspirations; the rise to power of fascist and totalitarian regimes.

**2.2** the rise of fascist and totalitarian regimes, marked by “especially”.

**2.3** (a) the peace settlement follows 7.2; the economic crisis follows 7.4. (b) that the arrangement could not hold, whatever anyone felt about it.

**3.1 B.** “especially” names it.

**3.2 B.** viability, not popularity.

**3.3** (a) the CED’s own weighting. (b) “especially” is an argument about relative significance, which is exactly what unit 7’s final subtopic asks for.