

Cause & Consequence (Effect)

Every historical event occurred because of a series of events that happened beforehand. Things that directly lead to another event are called 'Causes'. Some causes occurred immediately before the event began, while others existed for several years before they caused the event.

Short term causes - conditions, events or decisions that occur only a few hours, days or week before an event

Long term causes - conditions that existed for years, decades or centuries before an event

Additional notes:

Just because something occurred before the event does not mean it caused it. A cause is something that is directly related to the event. Another way of thinking about it is to say that the later event would not have occurred if the earlier one had not happened.

Not all causes that lead to a particular historical event are as equally influential as each other. Some causes are more significant than others.

Sample questions for assessing Causes:

- Why did the event under examination occur?
- What earlier events were central to the occurrence of the event under examination?
- What motivated the people who were involved in this event?
- What were the economic, political, military or social reasons that led to this event?

Every historical event has a flow-on effect upon things that occur after it. Things that occurred because of the event under investigation are called 'Consequences'.

Such consequences can include impacts upon people, societies, beliefs or any other facet of history.

Short term consequences - those that occurred only a few hours, days or weeks after the event are called (also known as immediate, or direct consequences)

Long term consequences - those that occurred years, decades or centuries after the event

Unintended consequences - outcomes or things that happened were not anticipated or expected.

Additional Information:

The more you study history, the more you realize that consequences also become causes for other events.

Example questions for assessing Consequences:

- What later events were the direct result of the event under examination?
- What changed in society as a result of the past event?
- What were the economic, political, military or social changes which resulted from this event?

Task:

1. Review your list of events. Pick an event you know well and briefly outline the following:
 - Short term (immediate) cause:
 - Long term (underlying) cause:
 - Short term consequence:
 - Long term consequence:
 - Unintended consequences?