

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

APUSH Unit 1, College Board Periods 1 & 2

## HISTORICAL ANALYSIS – Causation

### From the 2012 Framework:

#### Historical Causation (cause and effect/impact)

Historical thinking involves the ability to identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationships among multiple historical causes and effects, distinguishing between those that are long-term and proximate, and among coincidence, causation, and correlation.

#### **Proficient students should be able to ...**

- Compare causes and/or effects, including between short-term and long-term effects.
- Analyze and evaluate the interaction of multiple causes and/or effects.
- Assess historical contingency by distinguishing among coincidence, causation, and correlation, as well as critiquing existing interpretations of cause and effect.

### From the 2015 Revised Framework:

Historical thinking involves the ability to identify, analyze, and evaluate the relationships among historical causes and effects, distinguishing between those that are long term and proximate. Historical thinking also involves the ability to distinguish between causation and correlation, and an awareness of contingency, the way that historical events result from a complex variety of factors that come together in unpredictable ways and often have unanticipated consequences.

### From the 2015 Revised Rubric for the Long Essay:

Describes causes AND/OR effects of a historical event, development, or process. Explains the reasons for the causes AND/OR effects of a historical event, development, or process. (2 of 6 possible points)

**Scoring Note:** *If the prompt requires discussion of both causes and effects, responses must address both causes and effects in order to earn both points.*

### Reminders to Students about Causation

Historians often debate the causes and effects of events, because history is complex and filled with multiple variables. Some facts are facts: black and white. But most of history is gray: up for interpretation. When analyzing causation, we must remember that we are making a judgment and defending our viewpoint. And, remember... every viewpoint has an opposing or differing viewpoint.

Analyzing the effects of historical events requires similar skill. It is not only listing ways the event impacted the nation, for example, it is analyzing historical significance of those effects. Did the effect stem directly from the event? Or, was it simply a coincidence in time and place? Was the effect short term or long term? Which cause was most significant? Which effect was most significant? Etc.

### Note to Teachers:

Causation is usually a skill students find relatively easy to use. The key to helping students use this skill in the APUSH classroom is not only to ensure they understand the content which will enable them to describe or list causes and effects, but to also enable them to analyze those items at a higher level. Make sure students don't just list causes... make sure they can explain which of those causes were more or less influential than the other.

Ask them to defend an alternative viewpoint to the one they present. Questions such as those will help students master this skill and consider more complex explanations. If you have already taught students how to address a prompt with a complex thesis, you can extend this activity by having them write a thesis statement.

### Activity Directions:

1. Identify the thematic focus of the question. Refer to the list at right, and ensure you thoroughly understand the central focus of each theme.
2. Complete the graphic organizer on the next page by adding detailed notes.
3. When you are finished, discuss the following:
  - Which category reflects the *greatest impact* of Atlantic exchanges?
  - Which *cause* had the greatest impact on the colonies?
  - Which effects illustrate "unintended consequences?"

### Themes

**Migration and Settlement** - This theme focuses on why and how the various people who moved to and within the United States both adapted to and transformed their new social and physical environments.

**America in the World** - This theme focuses on the interactions between nations that affected North American history in the colonial period, and on the influence of the United States on world affairs.

**Geography and the Environment** - This theme focuses on the role of geography and both the natural and human-made environments on social and political developments in what would become the United States.

**Politics and Power** - This theme focuses on how different social and political groups have influenced society and government in the United States, as well as how political beliefs and institutions have changed over time.

**American and National Identity** - This theme focuses on how and why definitions of American and national identity and values have developed, as well as on related topics such as citizenship, constitutionalism, foreign policy, assimilation, and American exceptionalism.

**Work, Exchange, and Technology** - This theme focuses on the factors behind the development of systems of economic exchange, particularly the role of technology, economic markets, and government.

**Culture and Society** - This theme focuses on the roles that ideas, beliefs, social mores, and creative expression have played in shaping the United States, as well as how various identities, cultures, and values have been preserved or changed in different contexts of U.S. history.

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## **Explaining Causation...Cause: Atlantic System (Exchanges) Effect: Colonial Development**

Key Concept 2.2: The British colonies participated in political, social, cultural, and economic exchanges with Great Britain that encouraged both stronger bonds with Britain and resistance to Britain's control.

List 5 specific ways the Atlantic System (political, social, cultural, and economic *exchanges*) impacted the North American colonies during the Colonial Era.



1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

Explain – using generalizations and specific evidence - *how* the Atlantic exchanges impacted colonial work, exchange, and technology (economic impact).

Explain – using generalizations and specific evidence - *how* the Atlantic exchanges impacted colonial culture (beliefs, ideas... cultural impact).

Explain – using generalizations and specific evidence - *how* the Atlantic exchanges impacted the development of American societies - as it developed in relation to other parts of the Atlantic World. (impact on America's Place in the World – global context).