

HISTORICAL ANALYSIS – Causation – The War for Independence

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 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.

From the Period 3 Content Outline:

Key Concept 3.1: British attempts to assert tighter control over its North American colonies and the colonial resolve to pursue self-government led to a colonial independence movement and the Revolutionary War.

- II. The desire of many colonists to assert ideals of self-government in the face of renewed British **imperial efforts** led to a **colonial independence movement** and **war with Britain**.
- A) The **imperial struggles** of the mid-18th century, as well as **new British efforts to collect taxes without direct colonial representation or consent and to assert imperial authority in the colonies**, began to unite the colonists against perceived and real constraints on their economic activities and political rights.
 - B) Colonial leaders based their calls for resistance to Britain on arguments about the rights of British subjects, the rights of the individual, local traditions of self-rule, and the ideas of the **Enlightenment**.
 - C) The effort for American independence was energized by colonial leaders such as **Benjamin Franklin**, as well as by popular movements that included the political activism of laborers, artisans, and women.
 - D) In the face of economic shortages and the British military occupation of some regions, men and women mobilized in large numbers to provide financial and material support to the **Patriot** movement.
 - E) Despite considerable **loyalist** opposition, as well as Great Britain's apparently overwhelming military and financial advantages, the Patriot cause succeeded because of the actions of colonial militias and the **Continental Army**, **George Washington's** military leadership, the colonists' ideological commitment and resilience, and assistance sent by **European allies**.

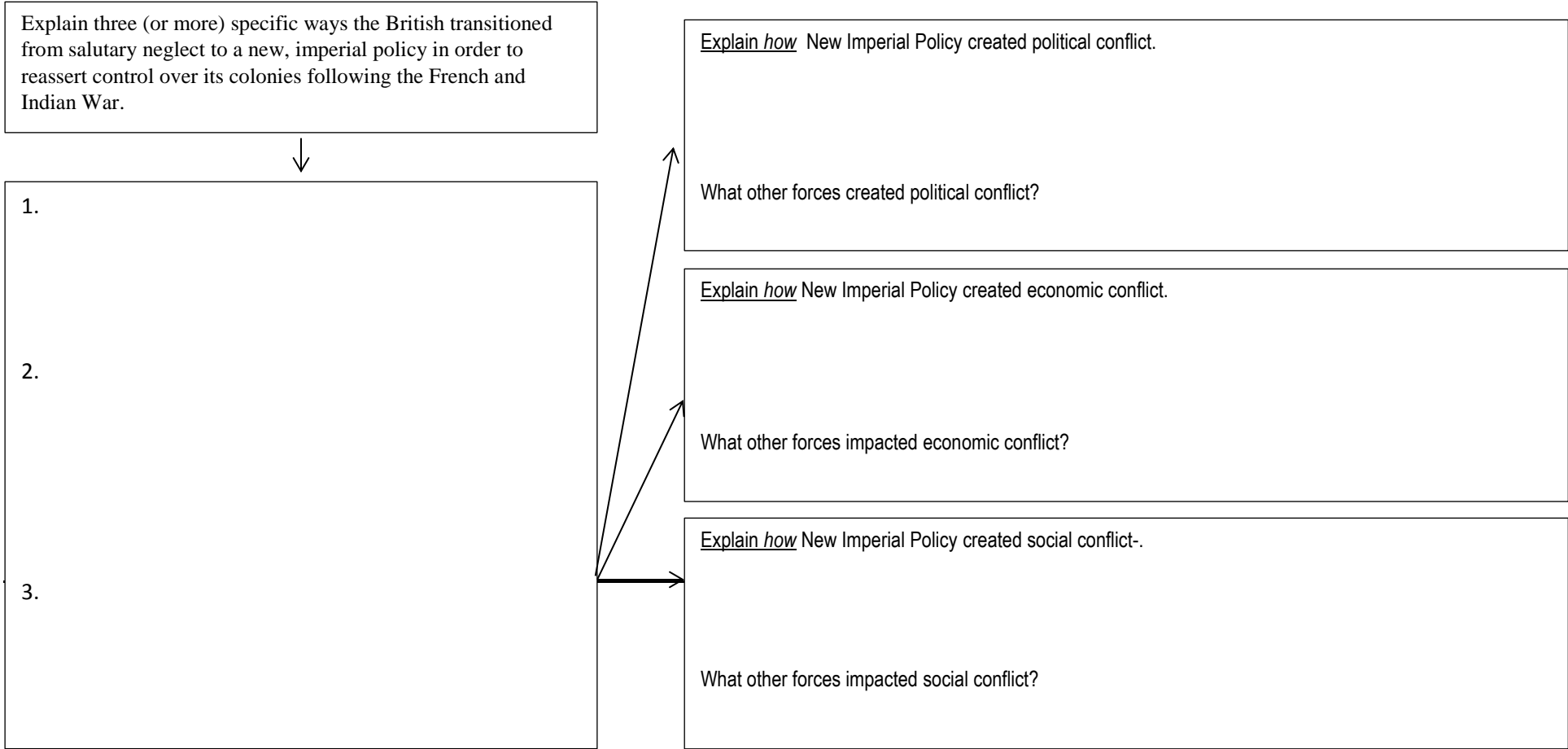
NAT-1.0: Explain how ideas about democracy, freedom, and individualism found expression in the development of cultural values, political institutions, and American identity.

POL-2.0: Explain how popular movements, reform efforts, and activist groups have sought to change American society and institutions.

WOR-1.0: Explain how cultural interaction, cooperation, competition, and conflict between empires, nations, and peoples have influenced political, economic, and social developments in North America.

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Prompt:
To what extent did Britain's new imperial policy following the French and Indian War create political, economic, and social conflict, resulting in the War for Independence?



Extension: On a separate sheet of paper, write your introductory paragraph. Consult your writing guidelines if you do not remember the thesis formula.

Remember... when asked to assess EXTENT you must take a stand in your thesis. Looking at your notes above, did the new imperial policy create the conflicts that led to war to a LARGE or SMALL EXTENT?

Make sure you include this analysis in your thesis!