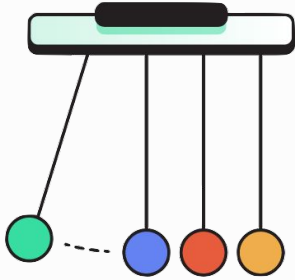


Formative Assessment:

Causation



Thinking historically means considering why certain things happened and what effects occurred because of an event, development, or process. It also means recognizing that there are multiple causes of and multiple effects from any event, development, or process.

Directions: Read the following historical context and primary source. Then, answer the questions on causation that follow. The multiple choice questions for this formative assessment are Weighted Multiple Choice (WMC) Questions. The two best answers are 2 points, the next-best answer is 1 point, and the incorrect answer is 0 points.

Formative Assessment: Causation

1. Using both the historical context *and* the primary source, select the **two statements** that best demonstrate why Hernan Cortés invaded the Aztec Empire.
 - A. The indigenous peoples were willing to support the Spanish against the Aztecs.
 - B. Hernan Cortés wanted to add to his own personal power and expand the amount of newly conquered land he could control.
 - C. Montezuma was a great lord who Cortés wanted to negotiate with.
 - D. By invading and overthrowing the Aztecs, Hernan Cortés could establish a new colony for Spain and his king.

2. Historians rank causes to establish which causes are more significant. Using both the historical context and primary source, explain why one of the statements you chose represents a more significant reason Hernan Cortés invaded the Aztec Empire. Cite evidence.



Teacher Key for Formative Assessment: Causation

1. Using both the historical context *and* the primary source, select the **two statements** that best demonstrate why Hernan Cortés invaded the Aztec Empire.
 - A. The indigenous peoples were willing to support the Spanish against the Aztecs. **(1 point)**
 - B. Hernan Cortés wanted to add to his own personal power and expand the amount of newly conquered land he could control. **(2 points)**
 - C. Montezuma was a great lord who Cortés wanted to negotiate with. **(0 points)**
 - D. By invading and overthrowing the Aztecs, Hernan Cortés could establish a new colony for Spain and his king. **(2 points)**

2. Historians rank causes to establish which causes are more significant. Using both the historical context and primary source, explain why one of the statements you chose represents a more significant reason Hernan Cortés invaded the Aztec Empire. Cite evidence.

Based on this historical context and primary source provided, Choice B and Choice D are clear examples of why Hernan Cortés invaded the Aztec Empire. However, when looking at the historical context and primary source, Choice D is a more significant example, as the historical context points out he was specifically directed and authorized to establish new colonies by the Emperor and the primary source makes multiple references to taking actions for "your Majesty." Choice B, also worth two points, highlights Cortes's personal greed and ambition as reasons for the invasion. It is directly referenced in the historical context and implied in his writing in the letter. Choice A can be implied from the letter, but isn't addressed in the context, and it appears that the allegiance comes out of Spanish force, so many no be trusted. Thus, it is worth 1 point. Choice C, has no evidence in the historical context and the source explicitly sets up Cortés's initial stance toward Montezuma as hostile, not diplomatic. Thus, it earns 0 points. Students who justify either choice B or D with both texts can receive full credit.



1. Weighted Multiple Choice

Choice 1	2 points (Choice B or D)	1 point (Choice A)	0 points (Choice C)
Choice 2	2 points (Choice B or D)	1 point (Choice A)	0 points (Choice C)
			Subtotal: _____ / 4

2. Short Answer: More Significant Effect

3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Student identifies one choice as a more significant effect and cites clear evidence from both the historical context and primary source to justify their choice.	Student identifies one choice as more significant and cites clear evidence from one source to justify their answer. Both sources may be cited, but only one provides clear justification.	Student identifies one choice as more significant and may or may not cite evidence to justify their answer. If evidence is cited, it does not provide clear justification for their choice.	Students does not identify one choice as more significant. Student either misunderstood question or did not attempt to answer it.
			Subtotal: _____ / 3

Total: _____ / 7

