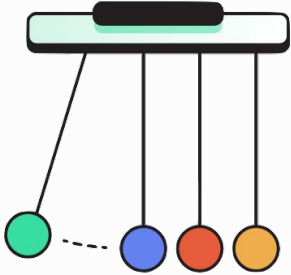


Formative Assessment:

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.

Historical Context:

During the Civil War, a strong coalition of the Republican party, known as Radical Republicans, became increasingly vocal in both their efforts to ensure civil rights for African Americans and punishments for the South. When Democrat Andrew Johnson assumed the presidency after Lincoln's assassination, tension grew between the executive and legislative branches. While Johnson pardoned former Confederate leaders, Republicans sought to prohibit their involvement in the post-Civil War governments. Despite 21 vetoes by Johnson, the Republican led Congress was still able to enact several pieces of legislation that significantly, if only temporarily, improved the status of African Americans, including the Reconstruction Amendments, Reconstruction Acts, and Military Reconstruction Act.

Source: The First African American Senator and Representatives From the Forty-First and Forty-Second Congresses, 1872. [Library of Congress](https://www.libraryofcongress.gov/).



Hiram Revels, the first African American United States senator, took Confederate President Jefferson Davis' seat, representing Mississippi, on February 25, 1870. The other Congressmen in the print include Representatives Benjamin Turner of Alabama, Robert DeLarge of South Carolina, Josiah Walls of Florida, Jefferson Long of Georgia, and Joseph Rainey and Robert B. Elliot of South Carolina. The Forty-First Congress met from 1869 to 1871 and the Forty-Second Congress met from 1871 to 1873.



Formative Assessment: Causation

1. Using both the historical context *and* the primary source, select the **two statements** that best demonstrate why African Americans held political office in the Reconstruction era.
 - A. Radical Republicans grew in their influence during and especially after the Civil War when the Union defeated the Confederacy.
 - B. Several important legislative measures were passed by Congress which protected the civil and political rights of African Americans.
 - C. President Johnson opposed the efforts of Radical Republicans during the Reconstruction era.
 - D. Radical Republicans sought to punish former Confederate leaders and worked to prohibit their involvement in the federal government.

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 why African Americans held political office in the Reconstruction Era. Cite evidence.



Teacher Key for Formative Assessment: Causation

- Using both the historical context *and* the primary source, select the **two statements** that best demonstrate why African Americans held political office in the Reconstruction era.
 - Radical Republicans grew in their influence during and especially after the Civil War when the Union defeated the Confederacy. **(2 points)**
 - Several important legislative measures were passed by Congress which protected the civil and political rights of African Americans. **(2 points)**
 - President Johnson opposed the efforts of Radical Republicans during the Reconstruction era. **(0 points)**
 - Radical Republicans sought to punish former Confederate leaders and worked to prohibit their involvement in the federal government. **(1 point)**

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 why African Americans held political office in the Reconstruction Era. Cite evidence.

Based on this historical context and primary source provided, Choice A and Choice B are clear examples of what led to new political opportunities for African Americans. However, Choice B is a more significant example of the historical developments that led to this change. The image portrays several African American men in Congress and the historical context explains that Radical Republicans were able to pass legislation that ensured their political rights would be protected. Choice B is a more specific reason for this specific development rather than Choice A's generalization about the influence of Radical Republicans. Choice D, does provide an explanation for the opening of the opportunities by prohibiting former Confederate leaders but this on its own would not allow African Americans to hold office. Choice C, while a correct historical fact, would not have contributed to opportunities for African Americans.



1. Weighted Multiple Choice

Choice 1	2 points (Choice A or B)	1 point (Choice D)	0 points (Choice C)
Choice 2	2 points (Choice A or B)	1 point (Choice D)	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

