

Cause and consequence

What are causes?

When we're thinking about an event in history, we are often looking for reasons to explain why the event happened - these reasons are what we call **causes**.

Causes are reasons that are directly linked to an event.



When we're trying to work out why an event happened, we find that there's usually **more than one** cause. There could be a range of causes. These causes can be, and are often **interlinked**.



Not all causes are equal - some causes might be more important or influential than others. Causes can play different roles in why an event happened.



What are consequences?



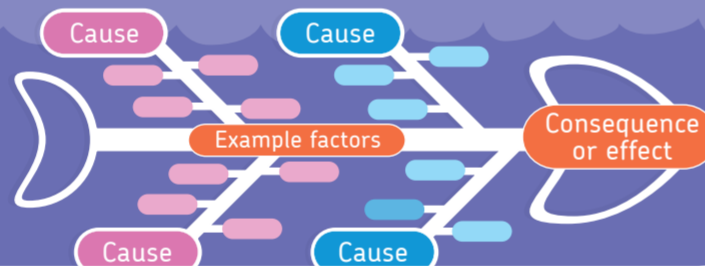
Consequences are the results or impacts of an historical event. **They are a direct result of an event.** They can be unintended or intended.

An historical event can have more than one consequence. **There can be a number of consequences** and these can be interlinked.

Links

Causes and consequences can be directly linked - **cause and effect**. It's helpful to be able to identify and explain the **relationship between the two**.

Recognise the relationships between key people, sets of circumstances, other events and developments.



Time

It's often useful to think about causes and consequences in terms of **short, medium and long term**.

There can be **short term** causes that lead up to a key event, for example someone's personal motivation, actions or a series of prior events.

Likewise, there can be **long term** causes that can be contributing reasons why an event happens, for example long-held ideas or government policies.

The same applies when thinking about consequences of an event. There can be immediate effects of an event. An event could also bring about long-term change that has a lasting impact.

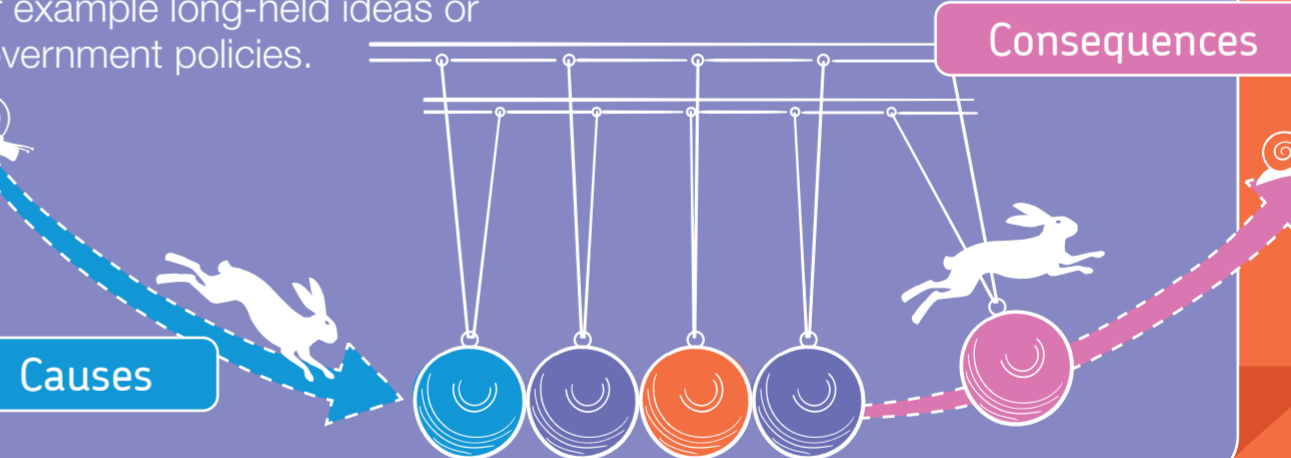
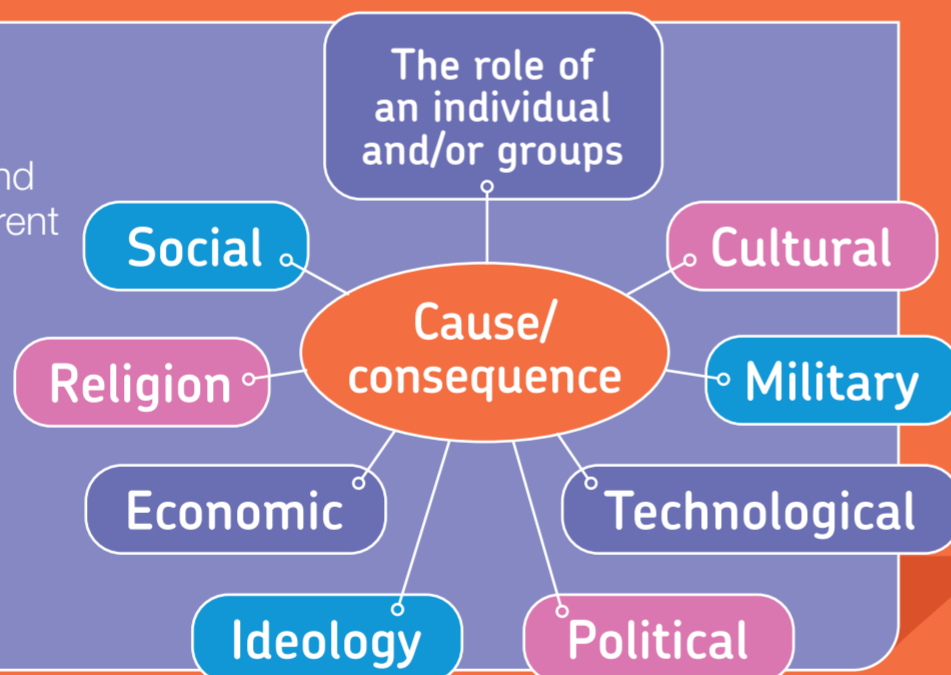
It's also important to remember that causes and consequences aren't always linear or occur in isolation - they often **overlap** or occur at the same time.

Factors

You can put causes and consequences in different categories.

We sometimes call these factors.

Here are some examples:



Useful phrases when writing about causes and consequences...

Contributed...
Sparked...
Influenced...
Brought about...
This meant that...



This led to...
As a result of...
Consequently...
These are linked because...
In comparison with...



Without X, Y would not have happened because...
The most important reason for X was Y because...

