# A Model for Causation

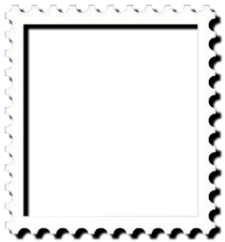
This model is based on Morton, T. & Seixas’ *The Big Six Historical Thinking Concepts* (2012);Scott’s *Understanding Cause and Effect* (1990); and my own modifications and interpretation.

Understanding ‘causation’ in history is crucial for students to make sense of the past. At a basic level, causation appears to be the bread and butter of history. The causation model outlined here attempts to get student to understand a number of key strands:

1. Change happens because of MULTIPLE CAUSES and leads to many different results or consequences. These create a WEB of related causes and consequences.
2. Different causes have different LEVELS OF INFLUENCE. Some causes are more important than other causes.
3. Historical changes happen because of two main factors: The actions of HISTORICAL ACTORS and the CONDITIONS (social, economic etc.) which have influenced those actors.
4. HISTORICAL ACTORS cannot always predict the effects of their own actions leading to UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES. These unintended consequences can also lead to changes.

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|  | **Misconception** | **Emergent**  **100pts** | **Developing**  **200pts** | **Mastered**  **300pts** | **Mastery** |
| **Signpost 1**  Causal Webs | *Causation is attributed to a single cause, usually ST, or multiple causes are given but not explained.* |  | *Y7/8* | *Y9/10+* | *Multiple short term and long terms causes of events are identified and explained. Relationships between causes are recognized* |
| **Signpost 2**  Ranking Causes | *There is no differentiation between the influence of various causes.* | *Y7* | *Y8/9* | *Y10+* | *The causes of historical change are analysed and different causes are ranked by their influence* |
| **Signpost 3**  Underlying Causes | *Historical causes are personalized to be the actions of great leaders or are seen as abstractions with human intentions.* | *Y8* | *Y9* | *Y10+* | *Historical change is explained through the interplay of the actions of historical actors and the underlying conditions (SPERM) in which they operated* |
| **Signpost 4**  Unintended Consequences | *Past events are seen as the result of specific plans and actions.* | *Y8* | *Y9/10+* |  | *A differentiation is made between the intended and unintended consequences of actions* |

**History CAUSATION Feedback**



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| **COMMENT:** | **Mark** |
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