

Moving Towards Powerful Understanding: Cause and Consequence¹

	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Causes and Consequences	Student understands that multiple causes lead to complex short and long-term consequences. Student is able to use this interplay to formulate a stronger understanding of historical events.	Student is able to understand short and long term consequences of multiple historical causes.	Student is able to understand cause but has difficulty linking those to short or longer-term consequences	Student likely to identify a single short term event as the cause of a consequence or has a list, but fails to understand how causes relate to consequences
Influential Factors	Student is able to understand and judge the implications of different causes based on their influence.	Student is able to analyze and rank causes based on their influence.	Student is able to understand how causes have varying levels of influence, but may struggle to rank them	Student is unable to differentiate the influence of different causes
Historical Actors and Conditions	Student is able to use the interplay between historical actors and conditions to create a strong understanding of the past.	Student is able to interpret the interplay between historical actors and conditions of the time.	Student is able to identify, but not apply the interplay of historical actors and conditions.	Student may only focus on actors or conditions and fails to work with both to understand the past.
Intended vs. Unintended consequences	Student is able to distinguish between intended and unintended consequences and uses it to further investigate historical events.	Student is able to differentiate between intended and unintended consequences.	Student is able to recognize that some consequences are unintended, but struggles to consistently distinguish between intended and unintended.	Student thinks of past events as expected results of plans and actions.
History is not inevitable	Student is able to argue that history was not inevitable and construct alternative consequences.	Student is able to demonstrate that every event in history was not inevitable.	Student is able to recognize that some events in history were not inevitable.	Student thinks of past events as inevitable and disregards choice, intention, and decision-making.

¹ Peter Seixas and Tom Morton, *The Big Six Historical Thinking Concepts* (Toronto: Nelson, 2013), p. 115.