

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 historical context and primary source below. Then, answer the questions on causation that follow. This question is Weighted Multiple Choice (WMC). The two best answers are 2 points, the next-best answer is 1 point, and the incorrect answer is 0 points.

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Historical Context:

Clearly defined gender roles and expectations characterized life in colonial America. However, during the movement for independence, new opportunities became available to women outside of the typical domestic responsibilities. Many women were eager to demonstrate their patriotism by contributing to boycotts, fundraising, and acting as spies. A few women even took up arms and fought as soldiers, although this was done covertly due to rules against female enlistments. Some women also maintained traditionally supportive roles as “camp followers.” These women were often wives, mothers, and other relatives of soldiers who helped with cooking and nursing duties.

Source: Resolve of the Senate of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, January 19th, 1792.

Note: Deborah Sampson was a poor household servant who saw an opportunity to make money from the signing bonus for joining the army. While her choice to fight was admirable, her motives were not simply patriotic. They were also practical.

On the petition of Deborah Sampson, praying [asking] compensation for services performed in the late Army of the United States.

Whereas it appears to this Court that the said Deborah Sampson enlisted, under the name of Robert Shirliff, in Capt. Webb’s company, in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment on May 20, 1782, and did actually perform the duty of a soldier in the late Army of the United States to the 23d day of October 1783, for which she has received no compensation:

And whereas it further appears that the said Deborah exhibited an extraordinary instance of female heroism by discharging the duties of a faithful, gallant soldier, & was discharged from the service with a fair & honorable character. Therefore—

Resolved, That the Treasurer of this Commonwealth be and he hereby is directed to issue his note to the said Deborah for the sum of thirty-four pounds, bearing interest from October 23, 1783.

Approved, JOHN HANCOCK.



A 1797 Engraving of Deborah Sampson by George Graham.



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1. Using both the historical context *and* the primary source, select the **two statements** that best demonstrate the causes of women's support for independence.
 - A. Women wanted to protest gender stereotypes through wartime service.
 - B. Women desired to maintain close connections to family members involved in the war effort.
 - C. Women felt a sense of duty to support efforts to obtain freedom from Britain.
 - D. Women saw opportunities for improvements to their status during the Revolutionary War.

2. Historians rank effects to establish which effects are more significant. Using both the historical context and primary source, explain why one of the statements you chose represents a more significant cause of women's support for independence. 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 the causes of women's support for independence.
 - A. Women wanted to protest gender stereotypes through wartime service. (0 points)
 - B. Women desired to maintain close connections to family members involved in the war effort. (1 point)
 - C. Women felt a sense of duty to support efforts to obtain freedom from Britain. (2 points)
 - D. Women saw opportunities for improvements to their status during the Revolutionary War. (2 points)

2. Historians rank effects to establish which effects are more significant. Using both the historical context and primary source, explain why one of the statements you chose represents a more significant cause of women's support for independence. Cite evidence.

Based on the historical context and primary source provided, Choice C and Choice D are clear causes of women's support for independence. However, when looking at the historical context and primary source, Choice C is a more significant example. The context and source note both make connections to the patriotism of women. Additionally, the reference to Sampson's "female heroism" evokes a implication of support for American ideals. Choice D is more explicitly referenced in the primary source note and is implied through the knowledge that the source was a response to her request for compensation. The historical context also references new opportunities for women. Choice B, worth 1 point, is described by the explanation of "camp followers" in the historical context but is not referenced in the primary source. Choice A (worth 0 points), while is not mentioned in either text and does not have historical proof as a main cause of women's support for independence.



1. Weighted Multiple Choice

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

