

Explain why

Explain means to make something clear, supporting your answer with reasoning and examples.

In order to explain something, you need to do more than simply describe events. To explain something effectively is to ‘analyse’.

Useful words for **explaining**:

- Because...
- Therefore...
- This means that...
- This is supported by...
- An example that shows this...

The focus of the question

Such as smaller events or different factors

Analysis means to break down a complex issue into more manageable parts to help people to better understand the issue. This is done by writing an account that considers the role of each part, and/or the relationship between the parts, in bringing about an outcome.

How they link to the question

Its link to the issue

Such as how they interact or affect each other

A good explanation should be:

- Coherent – this means it makes sense.
- Sustained – this means it is focused on answering the question.
- Logically structured – the response is set out in a sensible way.

Explain why

Your explanation should be directed at the **conceptual focus** of the question – the relevant second-order concept. **Explain why** questions focus on ‘causation’ which means you need to explain the reason (or reasons) why something happened, i.e. the causes. This involves tracing something back to its ‘roots’ to explore how events led to an outcome.

Explain why there was opposition in Germany to the Treaty of Versailles (1919).

You need to give reasons for the opposition, but then use reasoning and examples to explain why it caused opposition.

Stronger responses demonstrate wide-ranging knowledge & understanding by including **three different aspects of content**. One good way of structuring your answer is to use PEEL paragraphs:

Point – state your point.

Evidence – support your point with evidence.

Explanation – explain how this evidence supports your point.

Link – link your point back to the question and/or to the next point if linked (e.g. worked together to bring about outcome).

One reason is that people were angry that they had to pay reparations. The money Germany had to pay was set at \$6.6 billion. This was far more money than Germany had, and as a result, Germany had to print money, which led to hyperinflation. Because of this, many people faced poverty as their savings became worthless. This caused opposition because people blamed the treaty for their suffering.

The answer identifies a reason...

...then supports it with explanation using knowledge and reasoning...

...and finally links back to the question.

Explain why (change)

In Paper 1 the thematic study you will be asked to **explain the process of change**. This means writing a detailed account which makes clear **why change happened**.

Explain why Viking migration brought **change** to England.

You need to use reasoning and examples to **explain why it brought change to England**.

Explain why there were **improvements in medical knowledge** in the years c1500-c1700.

You need to use reasoning and examples to **explain why there were positive changes in medical knowledge**.

Notice how this student effectively uses **language of change**:
increased; sped up; spread; more people; breakthroughs; improvements.

One reason why there were improvement in medical knowledge between 1500-1700 was the increased communication of ideas. In 1660 the Royal Society was formed which meant that scientists could share and discuss ideas. This was significant as people began to question older ideas such as Hippocrates and Galen which sped up the rate of change in the cause and treatment of disease. Communication of ideas also spread across the general public through the introduction of the printing press leading to increased medical knowledge. This increased the need for literacy, meaning education was valued and the more people became literate, the more people were willing to question ideas. This was significant as people wanted to evidence new medical theories as people questioned what they were told, leading to breakthroughs by important individuals which led to improvements in medical knowledge as people moved away from the older theories.

The answer identifies a reason...

...then supports it with explanation using knowledge and reasoning...

...and finally links back to the question.