

Cause & Effect

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is unavoidable for any exams as the questions based on causes and effect are frequently asked in such examinations. Therefore, PO aspirants must pay special attention towards such questions. Before discussing the chapter, you must get the idea of the format of the problems to be asked in the examination. Let us see.

PROBLEM FORMAT/SAMPLE PROBLEM

Directions (Qs. 1-5) : Given below are pairs of events 'A' and 'B'. You have to read both the events 'A' and 'B' and decide their nature of relationship. You have to assume that information given in 'A' and 'B' is true and you will not assume anything beyond the given information in deciding the answer.

Mark answer:

- If 'A' is the effect and 'B' is its immediate and principal cause.
- If 'A' is the immediate and principal cause and 'B' is its effect.
- If 'A' is an effect but 'B' is not its immediate and principal cause.
- If 'B' is an effect but 'A' is not its immediate and principal cause.
- None of these

Examples

- Event A:** Bihar has a lot of corruption.
Event B: Bihar is one of the poorest state of our country.
- Event A:** Company 'X' has recorded a 25% jump in its sales.
Event B: Company 'X' has reduced the prices of its products considerably.
- Event A:** Priyanka is suffering from scurvy.
Event B: Priyanka has had inadequate intake of vitamin C.
- Event A:** Ramkishan died while going to hospital.
Event B: A car dashed into the bike Madan was driving.
- Event A:** Vandana succeeded.
Event B: Vandana worked hard.

After seeing the sample problem, now we are ready to discuss the main terms of the chapter in detail.

CAUSES AND EFFECT

It is very important to understand that events do not just happen; they take place because there was a cause behind them. In fact, such causes are the conditions under which these events (or effects/results) take place. Further, point to be noted that something can be said to be a cause of another event only if it is a necessary as well as sufficient condition for that effect to take place. Now, the two questions arise:-

- What does mean a necessary condition?
- What does mean a sufficient condition?

Let us see:-

Necessary Condition

A circumstance in whose absence the event can not occur is called a necessary condition. For example, no fire can take place

without oxygen. But point to be noted that no doubt that presence of oxygen is a necessary condition for fire to occur, but it is not a sufficient condition for this event (fire to occur). Then what sufficient condition is? Let us see below.

Sufficient Condition

A circumstance in whose presence the event must occur. As we have come to know that presence of oxygen is only the necessary condition for fire to occur. Its reason is simple as it is not so that wherever there is oxygen, there follows a fire. In fact, fire takes place only if:

- the substance is combustible.
- the substance reaches a minimum temperature.
- there is oxygen present.

Hence, (i), (ii) and (iii) together make sufficient condition for fire to occur. Point to be noted that (i), (ii) and (iii) each is a necessary condition for fire to take place but when they are combined together, they become sufficient condition for fire to occur. Thus, you can conclude that there may be several necessary conditions behind the occurrence of an event and they together are called sufficient condition.

From the above discussion we can also define a cause as

Cause is an event that leads to a said effect or result and this fact is either scientifically proven or logically expected.

Important

- In the examinations, candidates are asked to find out if a cause is immediate as well as principal. It does mean that the said cause must be the principal reason of the given effect and it should also be fairly proximate in time to the said effect.
- Cause is always antecedent. In another words, cause always occur before effect.

After having a complete discussion about causes and effects, we can solve our sample problem:-

Solution of sample problem

Sol. 1. (d)

Explanation: No doubts, corruption does lead to underdevelopment and hence poverty. But this saying is very wrong that corruption is the immediate cause of poverty. Had it been so, all non-poor states must be non-corrupt; but this is very debatable.

Sol. 2 (a):

Explanation: Reduction in prices can be said to be logically expected to result in increased sales.

Sol. 3 (a):

Explanation: No doubts, that deficiency of vitamin C is the reason of scurvy as it is a scientifically proven truth.

Sol. 4 (a):

Explanation: It is very clear that death of Ramkishan took place because of the accident of his bike with a car.

Sol. 5 (a):

Explanation: It is always considered that without doing hard work success is not possible. It does mean that we take hard work to be a sufficient cause for success.

EXERCISE

Directions (Qs. 1-5) : In each of the following question two statements numbered I and II are given. There may be cause-and-effect relationship between the two statements. These two statements may be the effect of the same cause or independent causes. These statements may be independent cause without having any relationship. Read both the statements in each question and mark your answer accordingly. Give answer

- if statement II is the effect of statement I.
- if statement I is the effect of statement II.
- if both the statements I and II are effects of the same cause.
- if both the statements I and II are independent causes.
- if both the statements I and II are effects of independent causes.

- I.** There is an unprecedented increase in the number of young unemployed in comparison to the previous year.

II. A large number of candidates submitted applications against an advertisement for the post of manager issued by a bank.
- I.** The prices of vegetables have increased considerably during this summer.

II. There is tremendous increase in the temperature during this summer, thereby damaging crops greatly.
- I.** Heavy downpour with high-velocity wind is probable in the coastal areas in next twenty four hours.

II. A soap manufacturing company increased its production by more than 100 in the last month.
- I.** There has been considerable reduction in the number of people affected by water-borne diseases in City A during this rainy season.

II. The government opened four new civil hospitals in City A at the beginning of the year.
- I.** There is increase in water level of all the water tanks supplying drinking water to the city during the last fortnight.

II. Most of the trains were cancelled last week due to water logging on the tracks.

Directions (Qs. 6 - 9) : Given below are pairs of events I and II. Read both the events and decide the relationship. Assume that the information given is true in deciding the answer. Mark answer as

- if I is an effect but II is not its immediate and principal cause.
 - if I is the immediate and principal cause and II is its effect.
 - if I is an effect and II is its immediate and principal cause.
 - if II is an effect but I is not its immediate and principal cause.
 - if both the statements I and II are effects of independent causes.
- Event (I):** The price of gold has gone up in the local market.

Event (II): Indians have won several prizes in designing gold ornaments.
 - Event (I):** Today, the prime ministers of countries P and Q have decided to take steps to improve bilateral relations.

Event (II): Next week a committee of foreign ministers and senior officers of country P and Q will work out further steps to improve the relationship.

- Event (I):** Recently the prices of the personal computers (PCs) have come down.

Event (II): Some school-children are showing keen interest in learning computers.

- Event (I):** This year Bank M has celebrated its silver jubilee.

Event (II): More customers are getting attracted to the market branch of Bank M.

Directions (Qs. 10-14) : In each of these questions two statements numbered I and II are given. Mark answer as :

- If statement I is the cause and statement II is its effect.
 - If both the statement I and II are independent.
 - If statement II is the cause and statement I is its effect.
 - If both the statement I and II are affects of independent causes.
 - if both the statements I and II are effects of independent causes.
- I.** Most parts of both the arterial roads in the city are waterlogged and this has brought vehicular movement to a halt.

II. There have been heavy showers in the city area during the past thirty-six hours.
 - I.** The prices of all the petroleum products have increased substantially in the recent price hike announced a week ago due to increase in price of crude oil in the international market.

II. Oil producing countries have increased the output of crude oil by ten percent for the last one month.
 - I.** The private medical colleges have increased the tuition fees in the current year by 200 per cent over the last year's fees to meet the expenses.

II. The government medical colleges have not increased their fees inspite of price escalation.
 - I.** The university authority has decided to conduct all terminal examinations in March/April every year to enable them to declare results in time.

II. There has been considerable delay in declaring results in the past due to shortage of teachers evaluating the answer papers of the examination conducted by the university.
 - I.** India has surpassed the value of tea exports this year over all the earlier years due to an increase in demand for quality tea in the European market.

II. There is an increase in demand of coffee in the domestic market during the last two years.

Directions (Q. 15-17) : In each of these questions there are given two statements numbered I and II. These statements may be either independent causes or may be effects of independent causes. One of these statements may be the effect of the other statement. Read both the statements and decide which of the following answer choices correctly depicts the relationship between these two statements. Mark answer as :

- (a) If 'I' is the immediate and principal cause and 'II' its effect.
 (b) If 'I' is effect and 'II' is its immediate and principal cause.
 (c) If 'I' is an effect but 'II' is not its immediate and principal cause.
 (d) If 'II' is an effect but 'I' is not its immediate and principal cause.
 (e) if both the statements I and II are effects of independent causes.
15. I. The interview panel has recommended 5 candidates for 3 vacancies which are to be filled in immediately in Company Z.
 II. The 5 candidates have been asked to contact Company Z next week to know their result and accordingly to collect appointment letters.
16. I. The financial position of the Electricity Division of State XYZ has weakened and it has made demand to the government for more subsidies.
 II. While the Electricity Division of State XYZ has revised the pay and perks of its employees, several subscribers and farmers have refused to pay long pending dues.
17. I. Recently the prices of the personal computers (PCs) have come down.
 II. Some school children are showing keen interest in learning computers.

ANSWER KEY

1	(a)	3	(e)	5	(c)	7	(b)	9	(d)	11	(b)	13	(b)	15	(a)	17	(d)
2	(b)	4	(e)	6	(a)	8	(d)	10	(c)	12	(b)	14	(d)	16	(b)		

Hints & Explanations

1. (a) The effect mentioned in II has direct relationship with the number of unemployed persons. Hence, I is the cause which led to II.
2. (b) Soaring of prices of vegetable has direct relationship with the availability of vegetables and also with the demand of vegetable.
 The event mentioned in II has a negative impact on the availability of vegetables. Hence, II is the cause which led to I.
3. (e) Both I and II are effects of independent causes. Manufacturing of soaps or increase in its production has no relationship (as mentioned) with the coastal environment. Hence, opt 5).
4. (e) Is II the cause which led to I? Answer is 'No'. Again, is I the cause which led to II? Answer is 'No'. Thus, both I and II are effects of independent causes. Hence, opt 5).
5. (c) Increase in water level of all water tanks and the problem of water-logging on the tracks are the result of increase of water availability or surplus of water (due to rain). Hence, both the events are effects of the same cause.
6. (a) The prices of gold may vary due to any reason but not necessarily due to the prices won in designing gold ornaments.
7. (b) The ministers and officers are working towards improving the relationship between the two countries only after the prime minister's decision to improve the bilateral liasion (relation)
8. (d) the slashing of prices may invoke some interest in the field of computer but the main reason behind learning this skill has to be academic interest.
9. (d) The fact that the bank has completed its 25 years will assure the customers of its dependability but customer will mainly be attracted because of services and profitable schemes.
10. (c) Waterlogging problems have occurred due to the heavy showers. So II is the cause of effect I.
11. (b) Both I and II are independent statements contradicting each other. I contains both effect and cause respectively. There is no correlation between I and II.
12. (b) Both I and II are independent events contradicting each other.
13. (b) Both statements I and II are independent. There is no correlation between them. Statement II contains both effect and cause respectively.
14. (d) Both statements I and II are effects of independent causes. Why did increase in demand for quality tea is not given in statement II. Similarly, why did increase in demand of coffee in the domestic market is also not given in statement I.
15. (a) Statement I is the principal cause. Due to this cause candidates have been asked to contact company Z.
16. (b) Statement I is effect and II is its immediate and principal cause. Pending dues must effect the financial position of electricity division of state XYZ.
17. (d) Statement II is effect but I is not immediate and principal cause. I may be one of the factors responsible for the effect.