Question 5

2 points

One point is earned for correctly defining correlation, and 1 point is earned for correctly defining causation.

Definition of correlation: Association; covariation; coincidence.

Definition of causation: Explanation; “X” leads to “Y”; “X” is responsible for “Y”; but for “X,” “Y” would not occur/exist, etc.

A score of zero (0) is earned for an attempted answer that earns no points.

A score of dash (—) is earned for a blank or off-task answer.
5. To correlate is to happen at the same time, or relatively at the same rate. For example, if a rise in \( x \) correlates with a rise in \( y \), then \( y \) and \( x \) will rise at the same time and fall at the same rate generally. This does not imply causation. Causation means that one thing is the result of another— for example, if \( x \) causes \( y \), then when \( x \) happens, \( y \) will happen as a result. Two things can correlate with each other and be unrelated, but if one causes the other, then they are not unrelated.
#5. The term "correlation" is defined as, relating to. The term "causation" is defined as, being the reason for. If economic growth simply correlates with democracy it means that democracy is a function that relates to economic growth. If economic growth causes democracy then it means that economic growth has led to is the reason for the creation of democracy.
Correlation is when one thing happens, another thing also tends to happen at the same time. For example, democracy and economic growth both happen at the same time, but it could be due to the fact that when a government decided to switch to democracy, the minds of people are clearly.

Causation is when one thing causes another thing. For example, democracy causes economic growth.
Question 5

Overview

The intent of this question was to examine students’ knowledge and understanding of correlation and causation, two concepts that are essential for explaining a wide range of political phenomena.

Sample: 5A
Score: 2

The response correctly defines correlation as a relationship between two events connected by time or rate and illustrates the relationship using “X” and “Y” (1 point). The response then defines causation as “one thing is the result of another” (1 point).

Sample: 5B
Score: 2

Both correlation (“relating to”) and causation (“the reason for”) are defined minimally, but the definitions are accurate (2 points). The response then elaborates on these two definitions by describing possible relationships between economic growth and democracy.

Sample: 5C
Score: 1

The definition of correlation (“when one thing happens, another thing also tends to happen at the same time”) is supported by reference to the relationship between economic growth and democracy (1 point). The definition of causation relies on the use of the word “causes” without further elaboration or illustration and therefore did not earn a point.