

Any essay, Make some comments on the Chinese traditional thoughts.  
( Confucianism , Taoism , Legalism etc) Characteristics, Representatives and  
their purposes etc , 2000 words



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### **Final Exam**

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**Confucianism** was introduced by Confucius according to Chinese tradition, who was a great thinker, political figure, educator and founder of Ru School of thought furthermore also known as the greatest and powerful philosophers of all time. He is well known for his contribution towards the Chinese society and even the whole world. Born on 28 September 551BC in a middle class family which was not considered as part of the nobility but was quite above the common peasants. His father was old who unfortunately died when the great Confucius was only at the age of three. So he grew up in a poverty stricken situation with his mother as the family bread winner supporting her family a living. Confucius was of Zhou nationality born in Zou, Lu, Zhou Kingdom which is now known as Nanxizheng, Qufu, Shandong, China. Confucius died at the age of around seventy one to seventy two years on 11 April, sources say his death was of natural causes. The great Confucius even when he was growing up he was an outstanding kid having different views with everyone especially the hierarchy of the society. Basically no one really knows how Confucius himself was educated, but tradition says he studied ritual with the fictional Daoist Master Lao Dan, music with Chang Hong, and the lute with music master Xiang. As Confucius was growing he entertained himself by habitually arranging rituals vessels and staging ceremonies, thus prefiguring the philosopher's famous interest in rites. He was outstanding as he grew up he saw things at a different view than most of the people, he did not believe individuals should be classified according to the family he was or he was born to, he believed someone should earn respect and honor individually according to individual talent. As we all know a journey of thousand miles begins with a single step. Confucius had poverty stricken and humiliating youth, upon reaching manhood he was forced to do piece jobs like being a shepherd and clerk. He held subordinate posts in public service. Sources say he married at the age of nineteen and had a child called Kong Li. At the age of twenty two he entered what was be chief occupation of his life that of a public teacher. To all he resorted he gave instructions, however small the fee offered, If only they gave evidence of capacity and zeal for improvement. As his fame spread abroad the number of his disciples increased, until it is said to have reached eight thousand though some sources condemn there was exaggeration. As his fame as rising to it speak it so happened the political disorders started growing out of quarrels of the feudal state, state which the authority of the emperor was too weak restrain which naturally drew Confucius attention to the principle of good government, and his also automatically became one of his most frequent topic of discourse. There is this major event in his life it is said in 525 when he was 27 years or 28 years old, he was supposed by the authors of

Zhuzhuan to have visited the ruler of small state of tan in order to learn bureaucratic history from him and then to marvel, with reflexive condescension, at how such knowledge was lost to the so no heaven but may still be studied among the distant border peoples of the four quarters. The theme of the extreme inquisitiveness of the young Confucius is also reflected in the Analects, When the Master entered the Grand Temple he asked questions about everything. Someone said, who said that this son of man from Zhou knows about the ritual? When he entered the Grand Temple he asked about everything. When the master learned of this he observed, 'Doing so is prescribed by ritual from one of the books Lunyu3.15. Around 522 when Confucius was approximately around thirty or thirty-one was one of the events recognized in history when Confucius is said to have uttered judgment on the reputation and behavior of others. First of all had something to do with DUKE king whom Confucius criticized for allowing his judgment to be clouded by anger becoming angry with an underling determined to fulfill his official responsibilities even when that meant disobeying a direct order from his ruler. So in general it is known that Confucius developed his own philosophy which he taught to others. Today his philosophy is known as Confucianism. Confucianism is in short is often characterized as a system of social and ethical philosophy rather than a religion in fact, Confucianism built on an ancient religious foundation to establish the social values, institutions, and transcendent ideals of traditional Chinese society. Confucianism faced some difficulties sometime back it was regarded as the cause of Chinese weakness in the twentieth century but then it was credited with the rise of the East Asian economy. In most cases somethings are not valued till they are missing it also so happened that Confucius ideas became in to use and very popular and basic philosophy of the Chinese culture for over two thousand. Confucius had many ideas but only here we can summarize a few ones, treat others kindly, have good manners and follow daily rituals, a man should have morals and ethics, family was important and ancestors were to be respected, a true man had the qualities of integrity, righteousness, altruism, goodness, and loyalty, one should practice moderation in all things and believed in a strong and organized central government. Confucius also had famous quotes, what you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others. To study and not think is a waste, to think and not study is dangerous. The cautious eldomerr. Is it not a pleasure to practice and learn what you have learned. If you see what is right and fail to aconite, you lack courage. When you see a good person, think of becoming like him or her. When you see someone not so good, reflect on your own weaknesses. Also well known for his golden rule, do not impose on others what you don't wish for ourselves. At age fifty-one he

was made chief magistrate of the town of Chungtu and thus he had at length an opportunity to put to his theories into practice. The implementation had immediate results giving improvement in the manners of the inhabitants led to his advancement, first to the post of assistant superintendent of public works and next to that of minister of crime in Lu. Due to the jealousy and fear of other states a plot was made of Marquis of Lu against his minister Confucius. Confucius was left with no option but to withdraw to keep his dignity. So for the following thirteen years he travelled around different states received with honor and respect but unfortunately without finding a ruler to consider him under his counsel. In 488BC he returned to his native state till 478BC when he died. Some of his followers wrote his ideas in a book that would be later called the Analects of Confucius. His legacy the Confucius teaching became the state philosophy of China during the Han Dynasty. His family name was Kong Qian he is called Kongzi in China which means Master Kong. Some people consider Confucianism a religion while others consider it as philosophy.

**Taoism religion** is the teachings of the Tao. Taoism may be traced to prehistoric folk religions in China that later coalesced into a Taoist tradition. Many Taoist practices drew from the Warring States era phenomena of the wu. Taoism in form of the Shangqing school, gained official status in China again during the Tang dynasty (618–907), whose emperors claimed Lao Tzu as their relative. The Shangqing movement, however, had developed much earlier, in the 4th century, on the basis of a series of revelations by gods and spirits to a certain Yang Xi in the years between 364 and 370. It flourished during the 13th and 14th centuries and during the Yuan dynasty became the largest and most important Taoist school in Northern China. Taoism does not identify one's will as the root problem. Rather, it asserts that one must place their will in harmony with the natural universe. Thus, a potentially harmful interference may be avoided, and in this way, goals can be achieved effortlessly. By Wu Wei, the sage seeks to come into harmony with the great Tao, which itself accomplishes by non-action. The Tao Te Ching or Taodejing is widely considered the most influential Taoist text. According to legend, it was written by Lao Tzu and often the book is simply referred to as the "Lao Tzu. The Tao had its advantages and disadvantages just like anything else.

**Legalism** also known as Fajia which means the house of administrative methods or standards of laws. Their teachings coming to temporary overt power as an ideology with the ascension of the Qin Dynasty. The Legalism believed that political institutions should be modeled in response to the realities of human behaviour and that human beings are

inherently selfish and short-sighted. Thus social harmony cannot be assured through the recognition by the people of the virtue of their ruler, but only through strong state control and absolute obedience to authority. The Legalism advocated government by a system of laws that rigidly prescribed punishments and rewards for specific behaviors. They stressed the direction of all human activity toward the goal of increasing the power of the ruler and the state. The brutal implementation of this policy by the authoritarian Qin dynasty led to that dynasty's overthrow and the discrediting of Legalism philosophy in China. The Legalism current remains highly influential in administration, policy and legal practice in China today.

**Buddhism**, a cultural system of beliefs and practices based on principles of compassion and non-attachment, originated in the sixth century BCE in what is today Nepal. It was brought to China by Buddhist monks from India during the latter part of the Han dynasty and took over a century to become assimilated into Chinese culture.

One of the key forces of Buddhism's success was Daoism. To help the Chinese comprehend Buddhist concepts, Buddhists borrowed ideas from Daoism via the Chinese language. Both Buddhism and Daoism benefited from this exchange. Daoists expanded their ideas about the cosmos and ways to structure their monastic orders. Buddhists gained a lexicon that made it easier to teach their tradition.

Over time Buddhism became a popular force in the lives of the Chinese, from the common people to the emperor himself. In fact, by the sixth century, Buddhism rivaled Daoism in popularity and political influence. It was during this time, and over the course of the next three centuries, that major schools of Chinese Buddhism formed. Two schools that retain their influence today are Pure Land Buddhism and Chan (Zen) Buddhism. Even in mainland China, where religion is often suppressed by the government, there are practitioners of these two schools of Chinese Buddhism.

Buddhism in China as is the case with religious Daoism and Confucianism also underwent many changes throughout the country's history and was varied in its social and religious manifestations and philosophical beliefs. Most scholars think of Buddhism as many Buddhisms. In the so-called classical period of Buddhism in China (Tang dynasty), there were a number of schools of Buddhism that taught and promoted their own philosophies and meditation practices. The Huayen

and Tiantai schools, for instance, varied in philosophy, location, and political influence. The teachings of various schools influenced and were adapted by Korea and Japan. One of the most popular figures in Chinese Buddhism is the Bodhisattva Guanyin the one who perceives the laments of the world—Guanshiyin. Having originated from Indian Buddhism as a superior being who aids the suffering of the world, Guanyin has become a key figure in the devotional practices of Chinese Buddhists and Daoists alike.

**Islam** was first introduced to China in 616–18 by the Sahaba companions of the Islamic prophet Muhammad. The first major Muslim settlements in China consisted of Arab and Persian merchants, on the foot hills of Mount Lingshan are the tombs of two of the four companions that Prophet Muhammad sent eastwards to preach Islam. Muslims in Ming dynasty Beijing were given relative freedom by the Chinese, with no restrictions placed on their religious practices or freedom of worship and being normal citizens in Beijing. In contrast to the freedom granted to Muslims, Islam's impact on China is growing because its external and internal influences are more intertwined than ever. Islamic civilization permeates the New Silk Road, shaping all of China's efforts to integrate mega regions throughout Afro-Eurasia.

In conclusion I think all the Chinese traditions are great since they all existed to make China better than what it was yesterday. All the founder of Confucianism , Taoism , Legalism, Buddhism, Islam, Christianity we founded with the same go to make people live in peace and to unit people as one since we can see that their goals were to solve problem's which existed and some still exist.