

Quiz 6: Lesson 6

Started: Oct 3 at 10:59pm

Quiz Instructions

Question 1

5 pts

One of Mencius' major contributions to early Confucianism was

- ☐ the assertion that ordinary people were right to overthrow evil rulers
- ☐ the idea that li (ritualized behavior, ceremony, etc.) is the key to good government
- ☐ the idea that human nature is like a blank slate, becoming good or evil as a result of social influences in a person's immediate environment
- ☐ the assertion that human virtue can only be developed in a social context, not by isolated contemplation, fasting, meditation, and so forth
- ☐ the idea that our main purpose in life is to find our lost "inner child," who will then make us happy

Question 2

5 pts

According to Confucius, the ideal method for putting his Way (dao) into practice was

- ☐ studying books
- ☐ frequent prayers offered to Heaven
- ☐ ritualized behavior (li)

- ☐ formal laws issued and enforced by the government
- ☐ a return to the most ancient period of human history

Question 3**5 pts**

A major concern of Confucius and those who associated with him was

- ☐ refuting the ideas of Xunzi
- ☐ devising methods of efficiently administering a bureaucracy
- ☐ debating and explaining the nature of human nature
- ☐ devising the best strategies for warfare
- ☐ preservation of the best of past cultural forms

Question 4**5 pts**

Which of the following matters was a major issue during the time of Mencius and Xunzi but not during the time of Confucius?

- ☐ the nature of human nature
- ☐ the correct method for praying to Heaven
- ☐ the questions of which books should be considered Holy Scripture
- ☐ family values
- ☐ ritualized conduct

Question 5**5 pts**

Mencius' preferred rhetorical device in favor of the argument that human nature is good was to

- ☐ point out that Confucius argued vigorously that human nature was good
- ☐ imagine the behavior of soldiers in a battle
- ☐ imagine somebody suddenly encountering a child about to fall into a well
- ☐ point to the existence of historical figures like King Wen and the Duke of Zhou as exemplifying typical human nature
- ☐ contemplate the excellent state of government and institutions during his day

Question 6**5 pts**

For Confucius, li (ritualized conduct) was

- ☐ a form of modeling
- ☐ less important than genuine feelings
- ☐ a method for enhancing one's spiritual wellbeing
- ☐ inferior to personal prayer as a means of spiritual development
- ☐ inferior to laws as a means of social organization

Question 7**5 pts**

Confucius thought that human society and civilization

- ☐ had emerged from a past in which people lived in a primitive state of nature
- ☐ could prosper only if people recognized and worshipped the supreme deity that he called "Heaven"
- ☐ was a corrupt realm that should be abandoned by people who are truly religious
- ☐ was the product of Divine creation by Heaven
- ☐ had not changed significantly for many centuries

Question 8**5 pts**

During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the Jesuit order of Roman Catholic priests argued that

- ☐ allowing for linguistic differences, Confucianism and Christianity essentially the same religion
- ☐ the Church should learn from Confucians regarding the conduct of elaborate rituals
- ☐ the ideas of Confucius are worthy of study, but not the ideas of Mencius
- ☐ Confucianism and closely-related practices like ancestral veneration does not constitute a religion
- ☐ Confucians worshipped the wrong god

Question 9**5 pts**

For Confucius, li (ritualized conduct)

- ☐ was the best means of protecting society against demonic forces
- ☐ included an educational and socializing function
- ☐ was inferior to laws as a means of social organization
- ☐ was essential for securing the blessings of Heaven to create a prosperous society
- ☐ was best enacted in the form of public prayers to Heaven

Question 10**5 pts**

For Confucius, “the Way” was a product of

- ☐ the combined power of a variety of deities and spirits
- ☐ random forces beyond anyone’s control or understanding
- ☐ human effort and intelligence
- ☐ the operation of natural laws
- ☐ the Divine power of Heaven

Question 11**5 pts**

For Confucius

- ☐ humans should live in harmony with the forces of nature, abandoning the artificial world of society and culture
- ☐ a major goal of his life's work was to convince others that human nature is good
- ☐ human society and culture had been in steep decline ever since the early part of the Shang dynasty
- ☐ the preservation of ancient culture, while enjoyable as a hobby, was of little or no practical value to society in the present
- ☐ law should not be the primary means of regulating society

Question 12

5 pts

Confucius thought that human civilization

- ☐ would probably collapse in the future
- ☐ would probably improve and advance in the future
- ☐ depended on and was a product of the Divine power of Heaven
- ☐ was not significantly different from the rest of nature
- ☐ had been in steep decline for many centuries

Question 13

5 pts

Confucius thought that human civilization in his own time

- ☐ was so corrupt that the only viable option was to abandon it
- ☐ had been in steep decline for many centuries
- ☐ was undergoing a temporary setback in its development
- ☐ was more glorious than it have ever been in the past
- ☐ had not changed significantly for many centuries

Question 14

5 pts

Confucius' Way (dao) was

- ☐ created, upheld, and advanced by human effort
- ☐ a mystical path, which people pursued through meditation and the use of certain herbal hallucinogenic drugs
- ☐ a return to a pristine state of nature, unspoiled by social corruption
- ☐ roughly equivalent to the forces of nature or the cosmic forces
- ☐ a path one could follow that would lead to a better life in the next world after death

Question 15

5 pts

For Confucius, sages

- ☐ influence the rest of society by means of moral charisma (de)
- ☐ were to be found only among kings and emperors
- ☐ were numerous in his own day, thus giving him hope for the future
- ☐ had no effect on society because it had become too corrupt
- ☐ were divine, savior-like beings send to earth by Heaven

Question 16**5 pts**

For Confucius

- ☐ good government was largely a matter of technical skill in the management of laws, regulations, and the flow of revenues into the state treasury
- ☐ heartfelt prayers offered up to Heaven might influence the cosmic powers to benefit the person or group offering the prayers
- ☐ social harmony was best attained through a thorough and well-enforced network of laws
- ☐ courage was the root virtue out of which all the others developed
- ☐ Li (rites, formalized behavior, ceremonies, etc.) was the means by which humans develop their moral excellence within society

Question 17**5 pts**

Confucius was

- ☐ a military leader who yearned for peace

- ☐ a prominent government official
- ☐ a temple priest
- ☐ an antiquarian, deeply immersed in the lore of the past
- ☐ a prominent author and editor

Question 18**5 pts**

The root value for Confucius was

- ☐ filial piety (xiao)
- ☐ trustworthiness
- ☐ moral empathy
- ☐ doing one's best
- ☐ hard work

Question 19**5 pts**

For Xunzi, li (ritualized social forms, ceremonies, etc.) were

- ☐ a reflection of the innate goodness that constitutes human nature
- ☐ the primary means of training the body to attain immortality
- ☐ the primary means by which humans could train their inherently selfish natures and thus become beneficial members of society

- ☐ less important for regulating society than were laws and punishments
- ☐ ossified formalities of little or no practical importance

Question 20**5 pts**

In Confucius' view of history

- ☐ there is little or no hope that people will progress very far in future centuries
- ☐ we should all return to living out in the wilds of nature alongside the other animals
- ☐ human civilization peaked during the Shang dynasty and has declined ever since
- ☐ the farther back one goes in time, the more glorious and impressive was the level of cultural attainment
- ☐ people of past ages have improved human culture by building on the achievements of their predecessors

Not saved

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