

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Confucianism - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. **\*\*The Analects\*\*** The Analects is a book compiled by students of Confucius after his death. It's a collection of Confucius's sayings and conversations. The goal of the book was to record his teachings for his followers and to serve as a guide for a more harmonious society. Read the following excerpts from the *\*Analects\**.

Which of the following aspects of Confucianism is described in these excerpts?

*Book 1, Chapter 2 The philosopher Yu [student of Confucius] said: "Those who respect their parents and elders would hardly be inclined to defy their superiors. A person who is not inclined to defy their superiors will never stir up a rebellion. To respect parents and elders is the root of humanity." Book 2 Chapter 7 The teacher said, "Everyone is capable of supporting their parents. Dogs and horses likewise are able to do something in the way of support. Without reverence, what is there to distinguish one support given from the other?"*

A. Government rituals

B. Education



**C.**

Filial piety

*In Confucianism, filial piety is the idea of showing respect to elders. Details like "Those who respect their parents and elders would hardly be inclined to defy their superiors" and "To respect parents and elders is the root of humanity" support this answer.*

D. Religious rites

2. **\*\*Mencius and Xunzi\*\*** Mencius and Xunzi were Confucian philosophers during the Warring States Period in China. But they had very different perspectives on Confucianism, especially regarding their understanding of human nature. Mencius believed that all people are born inherently good and have innate virtues such as benevolence and righteousness. Xunzi argued the opposite point of view: Human nature is bad, and people need to be taught moral virtues. Xunzi's theory on human nature influenced politics and contributed to the development of Legalism, which the Qin Dynasty adopted as their official state philosophy. Legalism emphasized the importance of strict laws to maintain order in society, which strengthened the rulers' authority. Mencius, however, believed that the people were more important than the state or ruler. He argued that rulers should protect the welfare of the people and that their main responsibility is to create a society in which people can flourish. Mencius thought that if a ruler is unable to fulfill their duties, then they should be removed from their position.

What is the main difference between Mencius and Xunzi?

A. Mencius argued that human nature is bad, while Xunzi believed that people are born inherently good.



B.

Mencius emphasized that people are born with virtues, while Xunzi argued that human nature is bad, and people need to be taught virtues.

*Details like "Mencius believed that all people are born inherently good and have innate virtues such as benevolence and righteousness" and "Xunzi argued the opposite point of view: human nature is bad, and people need to be taught moral virtues" support this answer.*

C. Xunzi argued that people have the tendency to do good, while Mencius believed that people will choose to do immoral things whenever possible.

D. Xunzi believed that it is the government's duty to cater to people's needs, while Mencius believed that strict laws are the answer to a peaceful society.

3. **\*\*Han Dynasty\*\*** The Han Dynasty emerged after the fall of the Qin Dynasty in 202 BCE. During the Qin Dynasty, many Confucian texts and records were either confiscated or burned by Emperor Qin Shi Huang because he feared that they would undermine his authority and power. However, with the start of the Han Empire, Confucianism was revived, and efforts were made to collect any remaining Confucian documents. The Han Empire adopted Confucianism as the official state ideology and established Confucian schools. Confucian classics that survived the Qin Dynasty were used as main parts of school curricula. Studying Confucianism was necessary in order to take civil service exams, and many government officials were Confucian scholars.

Which of the following best describes why Qin Shi Huang most likely rejected Confucianism?



- A.** He felt that Confucian teachings challenged the powers of rulers.
- Details like “Confucian texts and records were either confiscated or burned by Emperor Qin Shi Huang because he feared that they would undermine his authority and power” support this answer.*
- B.** He believed Confucianism was outdated and no longer applicable.
- C.** He was unfamiliar with Confucianism and didn’t want to adopt a philosophy he didn’t know.
- D.** He thought Confucianism was too strict and didn’t promote a peaceful society.