

GRADE SIX

Did the character strengths of Confucius shape the classical civilization and modern civilizations of China?

Student Name:

Date:

Part III: This part consists of a document-based question. On this part, you will be provided with one version of the test based on your readiness to handle critical thinking challenges. (You may opt for a more difficult version than your teacher provides, but you will be graded on the version that you complete.)

Document Based Question

Directions: The task below is based on documents 1 through 5-6. The task is designed to test your ability to work with documents. Examine each document and answer all questions beneath the document. Use the answers to the questions to help write your essay.

Background

Confucius was born in 550 B.C. and lived during the Chou Dynasty. At this time, the land was divided among feudal lords, and the moral and social order was in a state of decay. He traveled for thirteen years from state to state seeking to persuade political leaders to adopt his teachings. Centuries later, Confucianism became the official religion of China.

Task:

Use the information from the documents and your knowledge of social studies, write an essay in which you:

- Discuss two character strengths of Confucius
- Discuss two qualities found in ancient China
- Discuss two qualities found in modern China
- Evaluate whether the character strengths of Confucius shaped ancient and modern China.

In your essay remember to:

- Write an opinion essay, arguing whether Confucius' character strengths shaped ancient and modern China.
- Include an introduction, a body, and a conclusion
- Use information from *at least three* documents in your answer
- Include historical facts, relevant details, and reason in developing your ideas

Document #1a:

There were four principles the Master (Confucius) taught: culture, conduct, loyalty, and trustworthiness.

The master was mild and yet strict, dignified and yet not severe, courteous and yet at ease.

The Master said, “The noble person is concerned with rightness; the small person is concerned with profit.”

-Confucius’ “The Analects”

1. What are four principles the master (Confucius) taught?

_____ [1]

_____ [1]

_____ [1]

_____ [1]

2. What did Confucius say the noble man is concerned with? What is the small man concerned with?

Noble Man: _____ [1]

Small Man: _____ [1]

Document #1b:

<p>Fair</p> <p>Treating all people the same; making judgments that are free from discrimination</p>	<p>Brave</p> <p>Not shrinking from a challenge; acting on convictions even if they are unpopular.</p>	<p>Charismatic</p> <p>Someone who has a special magnetic charm or appeal.</p>	<p>Forgiving</p> <p>Forgiving those who have done wrong; giving people a second chance</p>
<p>Love of Learning</p> <p>Enthusiastically mastering new skills, topics and knowledge.</p>	<p>Creative</p> <p>Thinking of new and productive ways to view things; imaginative.</p>	<p>Adventurous</p> <p>Willing to take risks or to try out new methods, ideas, or experiences to achieve a goal</p>	<p>Funny</p> <p>Enjoying to laugh and making people laugh; seeing the lighter side of things</p>
<p>Hardworking</p> <p>Putting a lot of time and effort into their work.</p>	<p>Hopeful</p> <p>Expecting the best in the future and working to achieve it.</p>	<p>Compassionate</p> <p>The desire to help someone who is in distress.</p>	<p>Smart</p> <p>Being able to strategize and come up with innovative ways to solve problems</p>

3. Based on the text in Document 1a and the chart in Document 1b, what are two character strengths of Confucius? Justify your answer with information from Document 1b.

A. _____
_____ [1]

B. _____
_____ [1]

Document #2

Chi K'ang, in ancient China, asked Confucius about government, saying, "What do you think of killing the wicked and associating with the good?" Confucius replied, "In your government what is the need of killing? If you desire what is good, the people will be good. The character of a ruler is like wind and that of the people is like grass. In whatever direction the wind blows, the grass always bends." [12:19] Confucius said, "If a ruler sets himself right, he will be followed without his command. If he does not set himself right, even his commands will not be obeyed." [13:6]

1. How does the document say the leader will affect the people?

[2]

2. What does Confucius say will happen if a ruler does the right thing?

[2]

3. When the document says the people are like the grass and the grass must bend, what does the document mean?

[2]

Document #3:

In many ways, Confucius was a revolutionary teacher. Besides learning skills such as writing, music and mathematics, he felt that students should learn to be virtuous, to achieve moral character, and to live a life of harmony. Education, he believed, is more than memorizing facts and learning skills. It is about learning to live a moral life. To study only so you can pass exams and be promoted would have been unacceptable to Confucius. He believed every individual could be educated.

-Selection from The Confucian Analects: Education

1. According to the document, list three beliefs Confucius had about education.

A. _____ [1]

B. _____ [1]

C. _____ [1]

2. According to the document, who did Confucius believed should be educated?

_____ [1]

Document #4

We communists are like seeds, and the people are like the soil. Wherever we go, we must unite with the people, take root and blossom among them.

We should pay close attention to the well-being of the masses, from the problems of the land and labor to those of fuel, rice, cooking oil, and salt ... All such problems concerning the well-being of the masses should be placed on our agenda. We should discuss them, adopt and carry out decisions, and check up on the results. We should help the masses to realize that we represent their interests, that our lives are intimately bound up with theirs.

--Excerpts from Mao's "Little Red Book."

1. According to the document what are two goals the Communists had for their government?

_____ [2]

2. How does Mao saying “we communists are like seeds, and the people are like the soil” compare to Confucius saying rulers are wind and people are grass?

_____ [2]

Document #5

“A good communist member is one who combines the great and lofty ideals of communism with practical hard work and the spirit of searching for the truth from concrete facts.”

-Anonymous

1. According to the document, list two features that make a good communist.

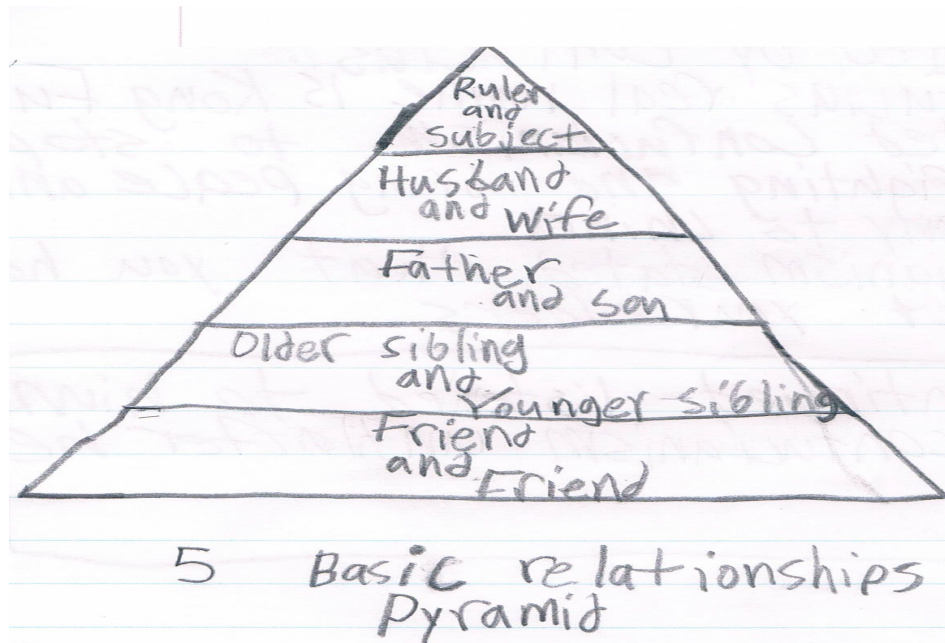
A. _____ [1]

B. _____ [1]

2. How did these documents compare with Confucius’ beliefs and teachings in ancient China?

[2]

Document #6



Confucius believed there were five basic relationships. If the father tells the son to marry; the son must do as the father says without question. This was called filial piety, respect for elders

and relationships. These relationships defined China's unquestioning sense of loyalty to the emperor for centuries and the deeply religious and pious duty owed, not only in a family (filial piety), but owed to the ruler.

1. Using the Five Basic Relationship Pyramid, who at the top of the pyramid, has the most authority in society and is owed the most respect?

_____ [1]

2. According to Confucius' relationship structure would it be acceptable for the son to give the father a command?

_____ [1]

Task: Use the information from the documents:

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- Discuss two qualities found in ancient China and modern China
- Evaluate whether the character strengths of Confucius shaped ancient and modern China.

In your essay remember to:

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- Include an introduction, a body, and a conclusion
- Use information from *at least three* documents in your answer
- Include historical facts, relevant details, and reason in developing your ideas