

Q.3. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Use your own language. (20)

The civilization of China - as everyone knows, is based upon the teaching of Confucius who flourished five hundred years before Christ. Like the Greeks and Romans, he did not think of human society as naturally progressive on the contrary, he believed that in remote antiquity rulers had been wise and the people had been happy to a degree which the degenerate present could admire but hardly achieve. This, of course, was a delusion. But the practical result was the Confucius, like other teachers of antiquity, aimed at creating a stable society, maintaining a certain level of excellence, but not always striving after new successes. In this he was more successful than any other man who ever lived. His personality has been stamped on Chinese Civilization from his day to our own. During his life time, the Chinese occupied only a small part of present day China, and were divided into a number of warring states. During the next three hundred years they established themselves throughout what is now China proper, and founded an empire exceeding in territory and population any other that existed until the last fifty years. In spite of barbarian invasions, and occasional longer or shorter periods of Chaos and Civil War, the Confucian system survived bringing with it art and literature and a civilized way of life. A system which has had this extra ordinary power of survival must have great merits, and certainly deserves our respect and consideration. It is not a religion, as we understand the word, because it is not associated with the super natural or with mystical beliefs. It is purely ethical system, but its ethics, unlike those of Christianity, are not too exalted for ordinary men to practice. In essence what Confucius teaches is something is very like the old-fashioned ideal of a 'gentleman'

as it existed in the eighteenth century. One of his sayings will illustrate this: 'The true gentleman is never contentious.....he courteously salutes his opponents before taking up his position...so that even when competing he remains a true gentleman'.

Questions:

- (1) Why do you think the author calls Confucius' belief about the progress of human society as a delusion? (04)
- (2) How did Confucius' thought affect China to develop into a stable and 'Proper' China? (04)
- (3) Why does the author think that Confucian system deserves respect and admiration? (04)
- (4) Why does the author call Confucian system a purely ethical system and not a religion? (04)
- (5) Briefly argue whether you agree or disagree to Confucius' ideal of a gentleman. (04)

Comprehension - 2013Q.1

The author calls Confucius' beliefs about the progress of human society as a delusion because he thought this progress is not natural. Moreover, he believed that in past leaders were intelligent and people were satisfied and happy. This is the reason of progress. Further, he ~~beli~~ supposed that this intelligence and satisfaction can not be achieved in present.

Q.2

Confucius maintained the excellency of his thought, instead of struggling for new things. His thought helped Chinese to develop a proper

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state from smaller and divided state. This developed and stable china has now more than usual territory, population and resources.

Q#3

According to ^{the} author, a system which taught people the ways of development and provided them with power of survival deserves respect and admixation. Confucious system helped chinese to develop a stable state with territory and resources for survival

The author calls Confucian system as purely ethical because in this concept system, there were no concepts of myths and super-natural beliefs. Moreover, ethics of this system are for common men.

Q#5

I agree with Confucius' ideal of ^a gentleman. Because according to this concept, a true gentleman maintains his integrity instead of arguing with his enemies. Further his competition with enemy is not filthy.
