

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

(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 the 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 civilised 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'.

Comprehension no 10 CSS: 2013

⇒ Answer no 1: It is because various historical anecdotes bear testimony to the fact that ^{most of} the rulers in various annals of history were cruel and his or her people were used to be exploited. e.g. Socrates was given hemlock just because he was telling the truth about the government of his time. Moreover, not only society, but every thing is in a consistent state of development and change.

⇒ Answer no 2: Confucius, like any other classical teacher, was a firm believer about the thought of creating a stable society. Further more, tolerance and respect were essential ingredients of his teachings. The people of his time were inspired from these teachings and with the passage of time, despite some momentary internal conflicts, they were successful in expanding a vast empire and creating a stable society.

⇒ Answer no 3: The Confucius system deserves respect and admiration because it is not a religion but an ethical philosophy and still it has profoundly impacted the Chinese people because a religion compels its devotees to do ^{practice} an injunction, while an ethical philosophy is devoid of this quality. In addition, this system imbues its adherents with the idea of peaceful society, inhabited by people who have unity among them. It is because of this quality, Confucius civilization was uniform through out its evolution.

⇒ Answer no 4: It is because Confucius had never declared himself a prophet of any religion. His teachings were wholly and solely based on his empirical knowledge and experience, and not on divine revelation. Furthermore, ~~he~~ ^{he} had ~~not~~ declared to be in possession of a divine book, nor he was blessed with any miracle. Moreover, this system has never talked about metaphysical concepts.

⇒ Answer no 5:

The Confucius' idea of Gentle man is worthy to agree with because it depicts that humility and dignity are two such virtues which should be practiced even in front of ones

enemies in order to inspire and win them even before winning a battle or a duel. Moreover, it also depicts how other people can be subdued with the aid of the power of respect.