

2013

COMPREHENSION

Question #1

Why do you think the author calls Confucius' belief about the progress of human society as a delusion?

Answer: T

The author called Confucius' beliefs delusional because of two facets of Confucius' beliefs. Firstly, he was of the view that humans are not progressive naturally. This meant that they could not develop anything on their own and had to rely on their ancestors. Secondly, due to this, he believed that rulers of the past had wisdom and their people were happy. However, people of the present could only admire this trait but are not capable of achieving this feat.

Question #2

How did Confucius' thought affect China to develop into a stable and 'Proper' China?

Answer: T

Confucius, like his antiquity teachers, was of the view that instead of going after new triumphs the focus should be on maintaining a particular level of excellence of a stable society. Therefore, the Chinese followed his thought and ideas, and established an empire three hundred years later. The Confucian system brought with a civilized way of life for the Chinese which helped to develop China into a stable state.

Question *3

Why does the author think that Confucian system deserves respect and admiration?

Answer:

The author thinks that Confucian system deserves respect and admiration because this system has survived longer and shorter periods of War, whether be it civil or the other. It has survived barbaric periods of violence and invasions. Therefore, the author believes that a system which has such extraordinary survival must have great merits and thus deserves respect.

Question *4

Why does the author call Confucian system a purely ethical system and not a religion?

Answer:

The author calls the Confucian system a purely ethical system and compares it with Christianity by propounding the fact the ethics of this system are not too prestigious for ordinary man to practice. Furthermore, he highlights the fact that this Confucian system is not associated with supernatural or with mystical beliefs. Therefore, this system is not a religion.

Question #5

Briefly argue whether you agree or disagree to Confucius' ideal of a gentleman.

Answer:

Yes, I agree to Confucius' ideal of a gentleman because true merits of a gentleman is the ability to stay calm and composed ~~on~~ when facing his opponents and when he is angry. Confucius' ideal of a gentleman is that true gentleman is never contentious which means a true gentleman never embroils himself in unnecessary controversies but rather he stays grounded and even if ~~this~~ he is angry he never loses ~~him~~ his in front of his opponents.