

AP World History  
Reading Assignment #2: 25, 26 & 27  
Chinese Thought

Questions

(#25)

1. Describe the “superior man”. Is Confucius being realistic or is this a person who cannot exist? Explain.
2. Define what Confucius means by the word “virtue”. Are the virtuous man and the superior man the same? Explain.
3. What type of government would Confucius support and why? What role does the ruler play for the government and why should the people support their ruler?

(26)

1. Compare and contrast Confucius’ view of government with Taoism (use section on “Government”.)
2. How are Confucian ideas and Taoism different?
3. What was your reaction to this reading?

(27)

1. Describe the ruler as viewed by the Legalists. How does it compare to the Confucian and Taoist ideal ruler?
2. What role does “punishment and fear” play for the Legalist? Do you agree or disagree with their use and why or why not?

General (all three readings)

1. How do the three philosophical schools of thought compare and contrast with each other? Which philosophy became the dominant one in China and why?