

# 14 What Did Confucius Say?

The time after 771 B.C. was a time of unrest in China. Many great thinkers wanted peace and unity. One of the greatest of these thinkers was Confucius.

Confucius lived from 551 B.C. to 479 B.C. His family was poor but of the noble class. Confucius was a good student. He studied hard. He became one of the world's most successful teachers. He had many ideas on how people should live their lives. He also had beliefs about how governments should rule. His ideas and beliefs make up a code of behavior. This code is called Confucianism.

Here are some of the ideas in the code. Kindness and goodness are very important. People must be sincere, loyal, and respectful. They should act this way especially with their families. Rulers must be wise and good. They should set an example. If rulers are wise and good, then their people will also be wise and good.

Confucius died at the age of 72. During his lifetime, he taught about 3,000 disciples. They believed in his ideas. They continued to teach his ideas. One believer named Mencius spread the ideas throughout China. This happened 100 years after Confucius's death. From then on, Confucianism was popular all over the country.

During the Han dynasty, from 206 B.C. to A.D. 220, the ideas of Confucianism became a part of the way of governing. The Han dynasty combined a strong ruler with Confucian ideas. The rulers in this dynasty led their people by good example. They did not use punishment.

Main Idea

1

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> N	5
a. Ancient China had many great thinkers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
b. Confucius was an important Chinese thinker.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
c. The Han dynasty accepted the ideas of Confucianism.	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

Subject Matter

2 This passage is mainly about

- a. Confucius's life.
- b. Confucius's thinking.
- c. Chinese government.
- d. Chinese mathematics.

\_\_\_\_\_

Supporting Details

3 Confucius taught

- a. the rulers of the Han dynasty.
- b. Mencius.
- c. about 3,000 disciples.
- d. all the great Chinese thinkers.

\_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion

4 The Han dynasty ruled China for about

- a. 200 years.
- b. 400 years.
- c. 14 years.
- d. 1,000 years.

\_\_\_\_\_

Clarifying Devices

5 The first paragraph of the passage

- a. compares Chinese life before and after Confucius.
- b. identifies other great Chinese thinkers.
- c. shows why the Han dynasty came to power.
- d. establishes the background for Confucius's thinking.

\_\_\_\_\_

Vocabulary in Context

6 The word code in this passage means

- a. secret writing.
- b. a set of signals to send messages.
- c. rules of conduct.
- d. written laws of a nation.

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Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here and on the graph on page 158.

Total Score

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# 36 Xi'an Warriors

In the city of Xi'an in central China lies one of archaeology's most astonishing discoveries. Two thousand years ago, the strong and powerful emperor Qin Shihuangdi died and was buried. What a burial it must have been! The gravesite is guarded by more than 8,000 life-size soldiers and horses made of clay. The figures are arranged in great military formations. They wear brightly painted military uniforms. They are lifelike in their postures and facial expressions. The figures are known as the Terra Cotta Warriors.

The site, discovered in 1974, is just 23 miles east of the ancient city of Xi'an. Three areas were unearthed. They are named Pit Number 1, Pit Number 2, and Pit Number 3. Pit Number 1 holds a huge rectangular military formation. There are about 6,000 terra cotta figures, horses, and chariots. The formation includes infantrymen and chariot soldiers. They stand in rows as vanguard, rearguard, and right and left flanks of a strong army. Pit Number 2 contains a battle formation of more than 1,400 terra cotta figures and horses. There are crossbowmen, charioteers, and cavalymen. Pit Number 3 is divided into three sections. It includes an area with chariots and horses. There are only 64 armored warriors in this pit. It is thought that this pit represents the command headquarters of the emperor's army.

The discovery of the huge burial pits was an important find. It has provided an opportunity for archaeologists and historians to study the culture of Qin Shihuangdi. Qin Shihuangdi was clearly a powerful ruler. But could he have imagined his power reaching so far beyond his time?

Main Idea 1 \_\_\_\_\_

	Answer	Score
Mark the <i>main idea</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> M	15
Mark the statement that is <i>too broad</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> B	5
Mark the statement that is <i>too narrow</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> N	5

- a. Qin Shihuangdi's burial site is an amazing archaeological find.  \_\_\_\_\_
- b. The three pits contain terra cotta figures.  \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Chinese archaeological sites are valuable.  \_\_\_\_\_

Score 15 points for each correct answer.

Score

- Subject Matter**    2    The passage mainly describes  
 a. the life and times of Qin Shihuangdi.  
 b. the chariots.  
 c. the contents of the burial pits.  
 d. the facial expressions of the warriors.    \_\_\_\_\_
- Supporting  
Details**            3    All three pits contained  
 a. crossbowmen.  
 b. cavalrymen.  
 c. Qin Shihuangdi.  
 d. horses.    \_\_\_\_\_
- Conclusion**        4    Qin Shihuangdi's power reaches beyond his  
time because  
 a. he is still emperor.  
 b. his burial pit provides information about  
his life and the era.  
 c. he ruled a large portion of China.  
 d. he was emperor for a very long time.    \_\_\_\_\_
- Clarifying  
Devices**            5    The question at the end suggests that the reader  
should  
 a. visit this site.  
 b. consider the historical and archaeological  
importance of the site today.  
 c. imagine the extent of Qin Shihuangdi's  
influence on modern warfare.  
 d. investigate careers in archaeology.    \_\_\_\_\_
- Vocabulary  
in Context**        6    The word unearthed means  
 a. dug up.  
 b. reburied.  
 c. covered with mud.  
 d. sent into space.    \_\_\_\_\_

Add your scores for questions 1–6. Enter the total here  
and on the graph on page 159.

Total  
Score    \_\_\_\_\_