Confucius (Kong Fuzi/Kong Zi/K’ung-fu-tzu/K’ung-tzu)

1. The video opens with the belief that “A man who reviews the old so as to find out the new is qualified to …

2. What background information on Confucius is given to help us understand his family and life?

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3. What was Confucius’ first career?

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4. What did Confucius see as being “one of the very important pillars of the way in which society was set up”?

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5. What was Confucius’ attitude toward education and its relationship to socio-economic status?

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6. What was a major focus of Confucius’ teachings?

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7. Describe Confucius' teaching method. Is it familiar? What would Confucius’ do when a student disagreed with him?

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8. What is the first concept in Confucius’ philosophy and what is believed to be the essential trait to being fully human?

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9. Name the Five Virtues of Confucianism.

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10. What behavior often got Confucius into trouble?

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11. What nine practices should guide “a man of virtue” (a jen-tzu or chun-tzu)? Are these familiar?

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12. What is Tao (“Dao”)?

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13. What did Confucius suggest that all humans, no matter how great or small, should cultivate?

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14. What is the name of the collection of Confucius’ (and his students’) writings?

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15. What did Confucius see as being the three essentials, the most important elements of good government? Which would he give up first? Second? Last?

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16. What were Confucius’ views of death and the spirit world?

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Mencius (Meng Zi/Meng Tzu/Meng Ke/Meng Ko)

17. What importance did Mencius have in the legacy of Confucianism?

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18. What career did Mencius pursue?

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19. What was Mencius’ view of human nature?

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20. The influence of Confucian and Mencian thought in China is compared to which schools of thought in the West?

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