

Religion 202. Question sheet 7: Indigenous religions of East Asia.

NOTE: Please answer with schematic overviews, NOT in full sentences.

Please do not type, but hand-write your answer

Fact and Comparison Questions to study for the exam (required)

1. A. Give basic facts (founder, dates, canon) for early Confucianism and B. give a brief outline of its main characteristics, C. taking care to illustrate each point with references to the Analects.
2. A. What was the context of Neo-Confucianism? B. Discuss briefly Mencius' importance for Neo-Confucianism and C. the nature of Zhu Xi's contribution.
3. A. Give basic facts (founder(s) + doubts, dates, canon) for philosophical Daoism and B. give a brief outline of its main characteristics, C. taking care to illustrate each point with references to the Daodejing.
4. Briefly outline the main characteristics of Religious Daoism, illustrating with the example of the Dianshi Dao or Sect of Heavenly Masters.
5. Make a comparative overview of Daoism and Confucianism, indicating similarities (think about background, questions asked...) and differences in approach, both theory and praxis. NOTE: this is NOT just a combination of Q 1 & 3,: instead make the categories you compare match)

Discussion questions (optional)

1. How do Confucianism and Taoism relate to the ancient Chinese religion we discussed last week. Make an overview of where you spot continuity and change.
2. Do you regard Confucius as more of a reformer than a conservative? How does that compare to philosophical Daoism?
3. How do you evaluate Maoist views on Buddhism, Confucianism and Legalism? Would you say there is an internal consistency in uprooting popular religion in the name of the people, or would you say it can be justified because the people need to be educated about abuses of religion? Why is Daoism looked upon with suspicion?
4. If you were involved in ruling a small state in ancient China would you opt for Confucianism, Legalism, Mohism, or Daoism? What factors might influence your choice? Which of the systems seem practical for government in the contemporary US? What fits best your personal philosophy of life?