

Three Paths to Order

Compare how three Chinese thinkers believed society should work.

SS.6.W.4.7 “Explain the basic teachings of Laozi, Confucius, and Han Fei Zi.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one sentence or phrase that states a teaching of each thinker, then write 1 by Laozi’s teaching, 2 by Confucius’s teaching, and 3 by Han Fei Zi’s teaching so you can compare their ideas about order.

Thinkers of Ancient China

- ① During China’s Zhou dynasty, wars and weak rulers led many thinkers to ask how people should live and govern. Laozi taught that people should follow the Dao, or “the Way,” the natural order of the universe. He believed forcing events often creates more trouble. Instead, leaders should rule lightly and allow life to take its course when possible. This idea is called wu wei, or action without forceful struggle. Laozi valued simplicity, humility, and harmony with nature.
- ② Confucius focused on relationships among people. He taught that a peaceful society depends on people doing their duties in the family and community. Children should respect and care for parents and elders. Leaders should set a good example by acting with virtue, or moral goodness. Confucius also valued education and proper behavior in ceremonies and daily life. When people practiced respect and responsibility, he thought society could become more orderly and humane for all people.
- ③ Han Fei Zi disagreed that virtue alone could keep order. He believed most people act from self-interest and may ignore kind examples. His teachings, often called Legalism, said a state needs clear laws that everyone must obey. A strong ruler should enforce those laws with rewards for obedience and punishments for breaking rules. Han Fei Zi thought firm control would protect the state and reduce disorder. He especially worried when officials and nobles challenged a ruler’s authority.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did Laozi think a leader should rule lightly?

2 A child cares for an older relative and follows family duties. Which ideas of Confucius does this show?

3 According to Han Fei Zi, how could a ruler reduce disorder?

4 What is one difference between Confucius's and Han Fei Zi's ideas about keeping order?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Students damage a school garden during recess. Write exactly six sentences explaining what Confucius, Laozi, and Han Fei Zi might each advise a principal to do. Write two sentences for each thinker.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one sentence or phrase that states a teaching of each thinker, then write 1 by Laozi's teaching, 2 by Confucius's teaching, and 3 by Han Fei Zi's teaching so you can compare their ideas about order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did Laozi think a leader should rule lightly?	He believed forcing events creates more trouble. A leader should allow life to take its course when possible.
2	A child cares for an older relative and follows family duties. Which ideas of Confucius does this show?	It shows respect and care for parents and elders, along with doing one's duties in the family.
3	According to Han Fei Zi, how could a ruler reduce disorder?	A strong ruler should enforce clear laws with rewards for obedience and punishments for breaking rules.
4	What is one difference between Confucius's and Han Fei Zi's ideas about keeping order?	Confucius emphasized virtue, good examples, respect, and responsibility. Han Fei Zi emphasized clear laws, rewards, punishments, and firm control.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Confucius might ask the students to show respect for the workers and repair the garden together. He would want the principal to model responsible behavior. Laozi might suggest a calm solution that does not add more conflict. He could allow students time to settle the problem peacefully. Han Fei Zi would set a clear rule against damaging school property. He would give a consequence to students who broke the rule.

Accept equivalent descriptions of each thinker's teachings when they match the passage. For Part 3, accept reasonable advice that accurately connects Confucius with virtue and duty, Laozi with harmony and limited force, and Han Fei Zi with laws and consequences.