

Lesson 10

Study Guide

Vocabulary:

Ahimsa
Ancestor
Animism
Anthropocentric
Anthropomorphic
Brahman
Buddhism
Confucianism
Culturalists
Dao (Tao)
Daoists (or Taoists)
Five Aggregates
Hinduism
Jainism
Jiva
Karma
Nirvana
Tlamatinime
Universalists
Zoroastrianism

Philosophers:

Francis Bacon
Confucius
Lao-Tzu
Mahavira
Siddhartha Gautama

According to Confucius, the virtue of practicing rituals is important because

- a. rituals enable people to harmonize without coercion.
- b. God mandated such actions.
- c. rituals can create mystical states of consciousness.
- d. rituals enable people to avoid difficult social encounters.

Confucius's view of interpersonal relationships can best be described as

- a. hierarchical.
- b. hierarchical, but with a focus on reciprocity and empathy.
- c. egalitarian.
- d. egalitarian, but with the focus on merit.

Hinduism is

- a. henotheistic; there is one divine nature that takes many forms.
- b. polytheistic; there are many gods.
- c. monotheistic; there is one god.
- d. nontheistic; there are no gods.

In Mahayana Buddhism, a Bodhisattva

- a. achieves enlightenment and then passes into nirvana.
- b. achieves enlightenment and renounces nirvana, choosing to remain in the world and help others extinguish suffering.
- c. is unconcerned with fellow beings.
- d. leaves behind this world for the next world.

In traditional African tribes, a newly born baby is not yet a full person, whereas a deceased person who lives on in the memory of his or her descendants is a person still, despite physical death. This implies that

- a. there are no funeral rites.
- b. abortion is never justified.
- c. birth and death do not mark the person's beginning and end.
- d. animism is false.

It is challenging to understand the Chinese philosophical tradition because

- a. we've had access to the texts for so long that we tend to read them unimaginatively.
- b. you have to take part in Chinese religious rituals to grasp it.
- c. even if we read Chinese texts, it's hard to enter into the context within which those texts are comprehensible.
- d. there is no tradition of philosophy in China.

Native Americans tended to view nature as

- a. a source of aesthetic pleasure and recreation.
- b. something over which the Great Spirit had granted them dominion.
- c. a resource that they had a right to use.
- d. something that should be treated with reverence and respect.

The belief that created beings flow forth from God's activity as pure thinking is attributed to

- a. Ibn-Sina (or "Avicenna").
- b. Zoroaster.
- c. al-Farabi.
- d. Ibn-Rushd (or "Averroes").

The Buddhist doctrine of *anatman* implies that

- a. self, atman, and Buddha nature are one.
- b. there is no permanent, eternal atman or self.
- c. "You are that."
- d. there is a permanent, eternal atman or self.

The Confucian "attunement of names" means that

- a. names don't really matter.
- b. the name we give to something should match the reality.
- c. the names we give to our children are an important factor in their character formation.
- d. what counts the most is who you know.

The Mexican philosopher who rejected positivism because it did not acknowledge the importance of emotions in music and the arts was

- a. Octavio Paz.
- b. Auguste Comte.
- c. José Vasconcelos.
- d. Augusto Salazar Bondy.

The oldest philosophical text is the

- a. Old Testament.
- b. Bhagavad-Gita.
- c. Upanishads.
- d. Rig-Veda.

To act naturally in the Daoist sense requires that you

- a. act in a way that is free of social conditioning.
- b. act in a way that is prescribed by the most basic rituals.
- c. refrain from acting.
- d. do anything that occurs to you.

Western philosophers have tended to dismiss

- a. nonliteral, nonscientific explanations of life and the universe through myth, heroic legends, and nonmonotheistic religions.
- b. ideas that draw on monotheistic religions.
- c. ethical reflection.
- d. thought articulated in literalist explanations and arguments.

Which of the following is *not* one of the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism?

- a. Life is full of suffering.
- b. One can eliminate selfish craving by following the right way.
- c. Suffering arises from selfish craving.
- d. Humans should act boldly to satisfy their cravings, however selfish they are.

Buddhism is focused on achieving liberation from suffering and misery by experiencing an inner transformation.

Select one:

- True
- False

Confucius believed that true nobility and excellence in personal character depended on personal merit, not noble birth.

Select one:

True

False

In Hindu tradition, an avatar is a god incarnating in human form. For example, Krishna is an avatar of the god Vishnu.

Select one:

True

False

Philosophers have a long history of openness to the ideas of individuals who are not male, white, and of European descent.

Select one:

True

False

Traditional beliefs in Africa tend to favor a highly individualistic way of life, free of the limits of tribalism.

Select one:

True

False

Unlike Buddhists, Jains are committed to belief in the individual self or soul, and not only in human beings but in every living thing.

Select one:

True

False