Day 2 Passage: Confucius

Directions: Pair with a partner to fill in the blanks for the two paragraphs below.

For paragraph #1, have one partner read out loud and the second partner choose the correct word to fill in the blanks.

For paragraph #2, have the second partner read out loud and the first partner choose the correct words to fill in the blanks.

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| Paragraph #1 Choices:  *laws ideas example practicing* |

The *Analects* tell much about the philosopher’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He opposed the new forms of government that the Chu, Zheng, and other kingdoms were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Confucius did not agree with the idea of bureaucracy. He also thought that the use of written \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and punishments was not the best way to bring back order. Instead, Confucius supported the old Zhou dynasty idea that a ruler should set a good \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for his people.

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| Paragraph #1 Choices:  *respect ignored families filial piety* |

Many of Confucius’ thoughts about government seem to be based on his views about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. In ancient China, children were expected to treat their parents with great honor and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The ancient Chinese called this kind treatment of parents *xiao* or filial piety. Confucius told his followers that by studying \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ they could learn how to become loyal subjects. Confucius also taught that rulers could gain loyalty only by treating their subjects with the same love that parents show to their children. He called such love *ren*, or kindness. For the most part, the teachings of Confucius were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ during his lifetime. In time, however, his ideas, which came to be called Confucianism, spread throughout eastern Asia.

Answer Key: Day 2 Passage on Confucius

Paragraph #1

The *Analects* tell much about the philosopher’s ideas. He opposed the new forms of government that the Chu, Zheng, and other kingdoms were practicing. Confucius did not agree with the idea of bureaucracy. He also thought that the use of written laws and punishments was not the best way to bring back order. Instead, Confucius supported the old Zhou dynasty idea that a ruler should set a good example for his people.

Paragraph #2

Many of Confucius’ thoughts about government seem to be based on his views about families. In ancient China, children were expected to treat their parents with great honor and respect. The ancient Chinese called this kind treatment of parents *xiao* or filial piety. Confucius told his followers that by studying filial piety they could learn how to become loyal subjects. Confucius also taught that rulers could gain loyalty only by treating their subjects with the same love that parents show to their children. He called such love *ren*, or kindness. For the most part, the teachings of Confucius were ignored during his lifetime. In time, however, his ideas, which came to be called Confucianism, spread throughout eastern Asia.

\*Passages from the textbook Harcourt Brace Social Studies: Ancient Civilizations 2002, p. 248.