

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____ Period _____

Beliefs and Philosophies of Early China

Directions: Read each of the analysis questions BEFORE the scene begins as the group is setting up. Then, as you watch the scenes, follow along with the text in hand, and annotate for any information that relates to the question. When the scene is over, you will have a brief opportunity to ask questions of the actors. Then, write down your response to the question in your own words using important vocabulary terms.

Scene One- Mandate of Heaven Press Conference

What is the Mandate of Heaven, and how does it lead to cycle of dynasties rising and falling?

Scene Two- Two Wise Philosophers

Confucius and Loazi both wanted to bring balance and order to China, but in different ways. What did Confucius think was most important? What did Loazi think was most important?

Scene Three- Short-Lived Legalism

How did Shi Huangdi deal with each threat to his power? In general, what do his responses have in common?

- a) Nomadic Invaders:
- b) Rebellious Nobles:
- c) Opposing Ideas:
- d) What they have in common?

Scene Four- How to Succeed in Bureaucracy by Really Trying

What is the purpose of Civil Service Exams? What kind of people are they trying to hire? What problems are they trying to avoid?

Further Discussion

Directions: With remaining time, we will discuss the following questions as a class. Use the space below each question to jot down notes as you think, speak, and listen to each other.

Scene One- Mandate of Heaven Press Conference

How could the concept of the Mandate of Heaven and the process of the Dynastic Cycle be explained in non-religious terms? In other words, if it wasn't really Heaven, then what might have been going on?

Scene Two- Two Wise Philosophers

Why do you think both philosophers were threatened by Buddhism? Why might people find Buddhism more appealing?

Scene Three- Short-Lived Legalism

Based on their Legalistic actions, do you think the Qin dynasty would be able to keep the Mandate of Heaven? Explain.

Scene Four- How to Succeed in Bureaucracy by Really Trying

What problems could develop from a lack of Civil Service Exams? What impact would cronyism have on the working of the government?