Assessment: Three Chinese Philosophies

Mastering the Content

Circle the letter next to the best answer.

1. In the later years of the Zhou dynasty, what condition in China led to new philosophies?
   A. wealth
   B. disorder
   C. feudalism
   D. democracy

2. The Zhou dynasty came after which dynasty?
   A. Qin
   B. Han
   C. Chin
   D. Shang

3. According to belief in the Mandate of Heaven, earthquakes and floods might be signs that
   A. the king did not govern well.
   B. the end of the world was near.
   C. the people did not obey the laws.
   D. the natural world ignored humans.

4. Which group belongs in the shaded area of the diagram?

   ![Feudalism in Ancient China Diagram]

   A. lords
   B. soldiers
   C. farmers
   D. servants

5. What happened during the Warring States period?
   A. Dozens of clan leaders set up military states.
   B. The Zhou army won control of the state by force.
   C. Six or seven large Chinese states fought for power.
   D. China fought to protect the state from invaders from the north.
6. Which of these would Confucius have valued most highly?
   A. riches
   B. respect
   C. freedom
   D. creativity

7. Which phrase below best completes the following quotation?
   “I am a follower of Confucius. I am the oldest of three children in my family. My younger sister and brother have to obey me. In return, I . . .”
   A. "may do whatever I want."
   B. "can punish them harshly."
   C. "must set a good example."
   D. "have to grant their wishes."

8. Which later practice in China most shows the influence of Confucian thought?
   A. new inventions
   B. trade with Europe
   C. land given to peasants
   D. exams for civil servants

9. If you were a laborer, what would Confucius say that you should do?
   A. plan to rise to a higher status
   B. behave properly for your role
   C. try to outwit those around you
   D. relax and stop working so hard

10. Scholars disagree about the origins of Daoism. What is one point on which scholars agree?
    A. Daoism had little effect on beliefs in ancient China.
    B. Daoism's founder, Laozi, lived at the same time as Confucius.
    C. Daoism's book, the Dao De Jing, was written by many writers.
    D. Daoism provided the best form of government in ancient China.

11. Daoists taught that people could gain happiness by
    A. reading the ancient texts.
    B. serving in government jobs.
    C. living in harmony with nature.
    D. working hard to become wealthy.

12. In a chart titled “Yin and Yang,” pleasure would be paired with
    A. pain.
    B. reward.
    C. afterlife.
    D. enjoyment.
13. What is one way Daoism influenced China?
   A. It got scholars to study.
   B. It led to fights for power.
   C. It encouraged stricter laws.
   D. It became a popular religion.

14. What was the Legalist view of human nature?
   A. People are basically selfish.
   B. People are naturally curious.
   C. People are motivated by love.
   D. People want to do what is right.

15. Hanfeizi, whose teachings were the basis for Legalism, wrote that rulers should emphasize
   A. honesty and trust.
   B. scholarship and ideas.
   C. trade and manufacturing.
   D. rewards and punishments.

16. What did Hanfeizi say that rulers must do to avoid being overthrown?
   A. exercise absolute power
   B. let people do as they want
   C. earn the Mandate of Heaven
   D. be popular through good deeds

Applying Social Studies Skills
Use the quotations and your knowledge of history to complete the items below. Write your response in the space provided.

17. Describe how a government based on the philosophy of Confucianism as expressed in this quotation would most likely act.

   “To be able under all circumstances to practice five things constitutes perfect virtue; these five things are gravity, generosity of soul, sincerity, earnestness, and kindness.”
   —Confucius
18. Describe how a government based on the philosophy of Daoism as expressed in this quotation would most likely act.

“Windows and doors are cut into a wall. It is their emptiness that makes the windows and doors useful.”
— the Dao De Jing

19. Describe how a government based on the philosophy of Legalism as expressed in this quotation would most likely act.

“No country is permanently strong. Nor is any country permanently weak. If conformers to law are strong, the country is strong; if conformers to law are weak, the country is weak.”
— Hanfeizi

Exploring the Essential Question: How did Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism influence political rule in ancient China?
20. Circle one of these three philosophies: 1) Confucianism, 2) Daoism, 3) Legalism

Fill in the chart below to describe how that philosophy influenced political rule in ancient China. Use complete sentences.