

Essay and presentation questions

1. "The Qin empire was short-lived and, therefore, a failure." Discuss.
2. The Qin dynasty has often been described as "fundamentally anti-traditional". What arguments could be used to support the opposite claim, namely that Qin rulership is essentially a continuation of traditional thought and ritual practice?
3. Discuss how ritual and cosmology served the purpose of legitimizing empire in Han China.
4. What problems or tensions resulted from the re-emergence of the patrilineal family in the Eastern Han for men and women?
5. What is the role of Buddhist monks in overseas relations in the period between the Han and the Tang?
6. Why did Empress Wu Zetian favour Buddhism over Daoism?
7. The Song Dynasty was strong in many respects, but weak militarily. How and Why?
8. How did the status of women and the conception of womanhood change in China with the rise of Neo-Confucianism?
9. What are the contributions of the Yuan Dynasty to Chinese society?
10. Why is the Ming Dynasty described as 'autocratic'?