

Ancient Chinese Law and Philosophy – 16 December 2025

- Regarding AI tools:
 - If you have used (even partially) AI tools in preparing your answer, you **must** disclose that you are assisted by AI.
 - Please note that I myself have already run several AI tools using these questions. So I know what kind of responses are produced by AI. You must be aware of this.
- Completed answers must be uploaded at <https://lawlec.korea.ac.kr/essay> by 23:00 on 16 December 2025.
- Answer to Question 1 should be uploaded as **ACL P written work No. 3.**
- Answer to Question 2 should be uploaded as **ACL P written work No. 4.**
- There is no length limit to your answers.

[1] Question 1 (50 points)

Discuss the Confucian concept of “learning (學)” with the following passages in mind:

- Duke Ai asked, “Among your students, who is fond of learning?” Confucius replied, “A man called Yan Hui was fond of learning. He was unwavering in his anger. He did not repeat the same mistake twice. Unfortunately, he died early. Now there is none. I have not since heard of a person who is fond of learning.” (Lunyu, 6.3)
- The Master said, “Without a heart seething with fury, you won’t understand. Without gnashing your teeth, you won’t develop yourself further. When I raise one corner and if you don’t respond by raising the remaining three corners, I won’t repeat.” (Lunyu, 7.8)
- The Master said, “A noble person will eat but not lapse into gluttony. He will have a dwelling but not seek comfort. He will be forthcoming in his conduct but cautious with his words. He will proceed along the Way and be forthright. Such a person can be regarded as fond of learning.” (Lunyu, 1.14)

[2] Question 2 (50 points)

Compare and discuss the different meanings of 禮 (*li*) with the following passages in mind:

- “If it is against *li*, do not look, do not listen, do not speak, do not move.” (Lunyu, 12.1)
- “Bowling should be done before climbing up the steps. This is *li*. Nowadays people bow after climbing up the steps, which is rude. Although I may go against the general trend, I shall bow before climbing up the steps.” (Lunyu, 9.3)
- “*Li! Li!* Do you think I am talking about jade and silk?” (Lunyu, 17.11)
- Zi Xia asked, “‘Enchanting smile, revealing the dimples; Beautiful eyes, with dark iris; Plain white, making patterns colourful.’ What does that mean?” The Master said, “Painting is to be done on white.” Zi Xia said, “You mean, *li* is of secondary importance?” The Master said, “You move me, Shang (商; Zi Xia)! Now we can talk poetry together.” (Lunyu, 3.8)

[End of questions]