

The Possibility of Knowledge Notes Questions

Grade Type: Homework/Classwork

Due Date: Thursday, April 18th

Instructions: The following **35 Questions AND Answers** are to be copied into your Philosophy notebook. The answers to these questions can be found in **The Possibility of Knowledge Part 1** presentation (found on Archie under “Resources”). Complete the Questions AND Answers by the specified date.

1. What is one key part of Plato’s idea about human nature? To understand this idea, what two things does Plato need to explain?
2. What are the three big problems with Plato’s idea about human nature? How does he try to solve them?
3. What is certainty? Does Plato think certainty is required for justification?
4. If we don’t have a house, what three things do we need to build one?
5. Explain why the example of building a house shows how to solve Meno’s Paradox.
6. Why should we think that humans have the power/ability to recognize clear and obvious examples?
7. Are definitions/theories thoughts? Explain why or why not.
8. Explain the Glasses Analogy.
9. What are thoughts?
10. What are some examples of forms/concepts?
11. Look up a picture of the “Penrose Triangle” and draw a picture of it. (optional: draw a picture of the “Penrose Stair”)
12. What are physical sense perceptions?
13. What is reasoning?
14. What is language?
15. What is mathematics?
16. What is a skill (the definition, not an example)?
17. What is empiricism?
18. What is rationalism?
19. What are the three types of rationalism?
20. What are some reasons to think that all humans share the same abilities and powers?
21. What is space?
22. What does it mean for something to be innate?
23. Does the empiricist think that knowledge is innate? Explain.
24. Does the rationalist think that knowledge is innate? Explain.
25. In the video we watched about language development, BF Skinner and Noam Chomsky had different ideas about how language develops. What were their (different) ideas?
26. What is the example of Bouba and Kiki, and what is it supposed to show?
27. Is BF Skinner an empiricist or a rationalist? Explain.
28. Is Noam Chomsky an empiricist or a rationalist? Explain.
29. What is one reason to think that grammar is innate?
30. Do rationalists have to think that all definitions are innate? Explain.
31. Why is it a bad argument to say to the rationalist: “Words change their meanings all the time So, definitions aren’t innate.”?

32. What's the difference between a "definition" and a "meaning"?
33. What are the three parts of philosophical intuition/sense?
34. In the presentation, there is a slide titled "Plato's Procedure for Finding Definitions Using the Socratic Method". It is the diagram involving the definition of "dog". (page 35) Copy this diagram into your notes.
35. (OPTIONAL) There are two other diagrams; one about Forms/Concepts "space" (page 43), one about Rules "grammar" (page 49). Copy these diagrams into your notes.