

### Five Questions: The *Greater Hippias* Dialogue

In order to answer the following five questions, read pages 2–6 of “Socrates (Part 2)”, which can be found in Archie’s resources.

1. Socrates referred to beauty as “the beautiful”, and this initially led to confusion between him and Hippias. The confusion had to do with the difference between beautiful things (e.g. beautiful people) and beauty itself.
  - (i) According to Socrates, why is the beautiful *not* a beautiful maiden?
  - (ii) Hoping to rectify their initial misunderstanding, Socrates asked Hippias to explain what makes things beautiful, but Socrates disagreed with the explanation that Hippias gave, because Hippias claimed that the beautiful is gold, which he believed makes all things beautiful. According to Socrates, why is the beautiful *not* gold?
2. Every time that Hippias tried to define “beauty” (or “the beautiful”), his definition was rejected by Socrates.
  - (i) What was the very *first* way that Hippias had defined “beauty”?
  - (ii) Why did Socrates believe that Hippias had *misdefined* “beauty”?

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3. After his *first* definition of “beauty” was convincingly refuted by Socrates, Hippias proposed a *second* definition of “beauty”.

(i) What was the *second* way that Hippias had defined “beauty”, and how did he *explain* his second definition of “beauty”?

(ii) Why did Socrates believe that Hippias once again had *misdefined* “beauty”?

4. After his *second* definition of “beauty” was convincingly refuted by Socrates, Hippias proposed a *third* definition of “beauty”.

(i) What was the *third* way that Hippias had defined “beauty”?

(ii) Why did Socrates believe that Hippias yet again had *misdefined* “beauty”?

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5. Socrates tried to define “beauty. After rejecting his first definition, Socrates proposed a second one, which he ultimately rejected as well.

(i) What was his first definition of “beauty”?

(ii) Why did Socrates reject his first definition of “beauty”?

(iii) What was his second definition of “beauty”?

(iv) Why did Socrates ultimately reject his second definition of “beauty”?