# Meno's Paradox, Knowledge, and Love
## Notes Answers

**Grade Type**: Classwork

**Due Date**: Upon completion of the associated Presentation

**Instructions**: The following notes answers are to be copied into your Philosophy notebook. There are **no** corresponding questions; the notes have been written in such a way that it is clear what the answers are answering.

On the due date, using your iPad, take clear pictures of all your notes. In a fresh document in goodnotes, create a single file with all of the answers in order. Make sure the pictures are large enough so that each answer is clearly readable. Check to see if you have any questions missing. At the top of the document, write how many notes you have written out of the total (27). If any are missing, write which ones are missing and let me know if you plan to finish them and if so, when I can expect to see them. Upload this document to this dropbox on Archie. This is a classwork grade.

1. Meno's Paradox is a problem for the Socratic Method. It argues that the method is either pointless or impossible. If this is true, then knowledge is impossible.
2. At the beginning of the Meno dialogue, Meno believes that he is an expert on virtue but is slowly pushed towards aporia.
3. As a result of aporia, Meno is frustrated and begins to become angry at Socrates. He also wants to leave the conversation. Socrates must convince him to return since the Socratic Method requires at least 2 people.
4. Meno thinks the Socratic Method is less like a line and more like a circle. If you're in a circle, you're already at the end. If you're not in a circle, there's nowhere to get in.
5. Meno's Paradox can be illustrated by a puzzle about how science ever discovered what water is. Before we knew what water was, we had to know what to study. But how could we know for sure what to study if we didn't know what water was?
6. Form for Constructive Dilemma:
   1. Either P or Q
   2. If P, then R
   3. If Q, then S
   4. So, either R or S

7. Example of Constructive Dilemma:
    1. Either we're going to Paris or we're going to London
    2. If we're going to Paris, we're going to France
    3. If we're going to London, then we're going to England
    4. So, either we're going to France or we're going to England

8. Constructive Dilemma is valid because it is made up of two Modus Ponens arguments.
9. Meno's Paradox:
    1. Either we know a definition, or we don't know a definition
    2. If we know a definition, then the Socratic Method is pointless (since we already know the answer)
    3. If we don't know a definition, then the Socratic Method is impossible (since we don't know clear and obvious examples)
    4. So, either the Socratic Method is pointless, or the Socratic Method is impossible
10. If Meno's Paradox is sound, then humans can't learn new things and Philosophy and Science are impossible.
11. Epistemology is the philosophical study of knowledge.
12. Plato's definition of knowledge has three parts: justified true belief (JTB).
13. 'Justification' means that someone has good reasons for their belief.
14. In the Socratic Method, the value "believe truths" is needed for true belief(TB). The value "avoid falsehoods" is needed for justification(J)
15. Denial:  true things that you should believe since you are justified but you don't (JT)
16. Misled:  things you believe and are justified in believing, but that are not true (JB)
17. Credulity:  true beliefs that you have without good justification (TB)
18. The Gettier Problem is a group of examples that try to show that justified true belief is not sufficient for knowledge.  The examples are supposed to be cases where someone has justified true belief, but it doesn't seem like they have knowledge (so JTB is not enough).
19. According to Plato, the Socratic Method is how we justify our beliefs. Since the Socratic Method pursues the truth with both values (believe truths/avoid falsehoods), it produces theories and definitions that are the best explanation.  If something is the best explanation, our belief in it is justified.

20. The Symposium dialogue takes place at a dinner party to celebrate the success of a poet named Agathon.  The dinner guests give speeches in praise of the god of love: Eros. Agathon's speech praises love as being both beautiful and good.  Socrates challenges both of these claims.
21. Socrates argues that love is a kind of desire and humans only desire what we don't have. An example of this is hunger and food. So, love is desiring but lacking what is beautiful/good.
22. A philosopher, according to Plato, is a lover of knowledge. A philosopher does not necessarily have knowledge, but they recognize that they lack it, find it beautiful since it is good, and are motivated to pursue it by trying to justify beliefs using the Socratic Method.
23. Someone has epistemic authority when they are seen as having some kind of special access to the truth and/or knowledge.  As a result, they are seen as trustworthy and the only reliable source of information and education.
24. In the Athenian culture that Plato challenges, poets and powerful/popular people have epistemic authority. Because of the context of his childhood and early adulthood, he comes to believe that someone's power/popularity/claimed religious connection does not make them people we should trust as having special access to truth/knowledge.
25. If Plato is wrong and knowledge is Credulity, then poets and popular/powerful people should have epistemic authority.
26. According to the Traditional Theory of Education:
    1. If knowledge is true belief (Credulity), then students ask questions and teachers answer questions
    2. Knowledge is true belief
    3. So, students ask questions and teachers answer questions (education is transmission and learning is memorization)
27. According to Plato's Theory of Philosophical Education:
    1. If knowledge is justified true belief (JTB), then teachers ask questions and students answer questions
    2. Knowledge is justified true belief
    3. So, teachers ask questions and students answer questions (education is the Socratic Method)