

Unit 6 - Classwork 1: Pythagoras and the Milesians

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In order to answer the following five questions, read pages 1 — 13 in Unit 6.

1. Anaximander and Pythagoras both abstained from eating seafood, because they believed that doing so counted as a kind of *cannibalism*. Yet even so, they had somewhat different opinions about *why* it would be cannibalistic for a human being to eat sea animals. (If you don't know what the word "cannibalism" means, look up the definition of the word.)

(i) According to *Anaximander*, why is it cannibalistic for a human being to eat seafood?

(ii) According to *Pythagoras*, why is it cannibalistic for a human being to eat seafood?

(iii) Along with how Pythagoras believed that it is cannibalism for a human being to eat *sea animals*, he even believed that it is cannibalism for a human being to eat certain *plants*. According to him, which *plant-based* food would it be cannibalism for a human being to eat? Explain your answer.

(iv) Even though Pythagoras believed that it is wrong for a human being to eat sea animals, he nonetheless believed that it's not always wrong for a human being to eat animals. According to him, which *kind* of animal would it *not* be wrong for a human being to eat?

(v) How did Pythagoras' belief in *metempsychosis* influence his diet?

2. Anaximander and Pythagoras had untraditional opinions about the ethics of diet. Today, various (often untraditional) opinions about the ethics of diet have led people to adopt diets such as a vegetarian diet or a pescatarian diet.

(i) What is a *pescatarian*? (If you don't know what the word "pescatarian" means, you can look up the definition of the word.)

(ii) What is a *vegetarian*? (If you don't know what the word "vegetarian" means, you can look up the definition of the word.)

(iii) Was Anaximander a pescatarian? Why or why not? Explain.

(iv) Was Pythagoras a pescatarian? Why or why not? Explain.

(v) Why might Pythagoras not have been a vegetarian?

3. Pythagoras disagreed with Anaximander (and Anaximenes) about what souls are.

(i) According to Anaximander, are souls *material* things or *immaterial* things? Explain your answer.

(ii) According to Pythagoras, are souls *material* things or *immaterial* things?

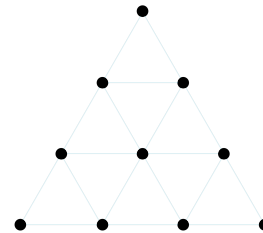
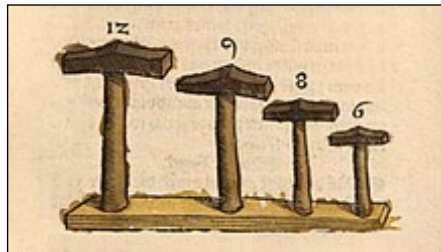
(iii) According to Pythagoras, what are the parts of the human soul?

(iv) According to Pythagoras, what are the parts of the nonhuman soul?

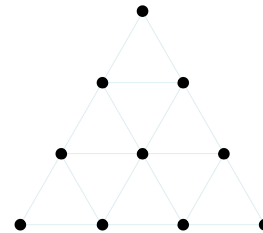
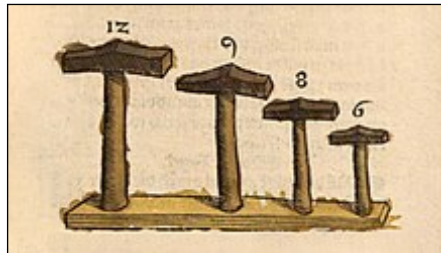
(v) According to Pythagoras, why aren't the nonhuman souls immortal?

4. According to Pythagoras, the *tetractys* (τετρακτύς) is the harmony that the Sirens sing, and it contains three harmonic ratios: the octave, the. Pythagoras discovered the three harmonic ratios by listening to blacksmiths hammering away on an anvil.

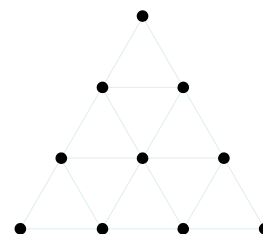
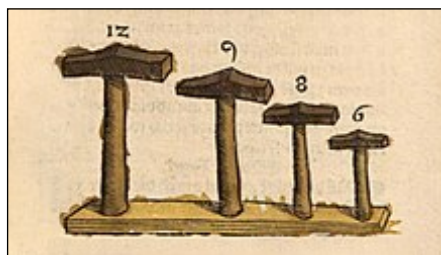
- (i) Circle the two hammers that form an octave, and circle the dots on the *tetractys* that form an octave.



- (ii) Circle the two hammers that form a perfect fourth, and circle the dots on the *tetractys* that form a perfect fourth.



- (iii) Circle the two hammers that form a perfect fifth, and circle the dots on the *tetractys* that form a perfect fifth.



- (iv) What is the harmony of the spheres?

- (v) According to Pythagoras, why can't humans hear the harmony of the spheres?

5. According to Pythagoras, all things resemble number.

(i) According to Pythagoras, what are numbers?

(ii) According to Pythagoras, what is the ἀρχή of number?

(iii) According to Pythagoras, is the ἀρχή of number *also* a number?
Why or why not? Explain.

(iv) According to Pythagoras, if a *polyhedron* exists, then what is the *minimum* number of points that must exist?

(v) According to Pythagoras, if a *polygon* exists, then what is the *minimum* number of points that must exist?

(vi) According to Pythagoras, if a *line segment* exists, then what's the *minimum* number of points that must exist?

(vii) How many points are in the *tetractys*?

(viii) According to Pythagoras, how do numbers have gender?

(ix) According to Pythagoras, is justice male or female? Explain.

(x) According to Pythagoras, is marriage male or female? Explain.