

Unit 7 - Classwork 2: Heraclitus

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In order to answer the following questions, read pages 6–17 in Unit 7.

1. As an Ionian natural philosopher, Heraclitus considered many of the same questions as the Milesian natural philosophers. Yet, his answers were somewhat different.

- (i) According to Heraclitus, what are the sun and the moon?

- (ii) How did Heraclitus explain solar eclipses?

- (iii) According to Heraclitus, what is the *arkhe*?

- (iv) According to Heraclitus, if *fire* is 50% of all matter & if *earth* is 10% of all matter, then how much matter is *water*? Explain your answer.

- (v) According to Heraclitus, if *fire* is 50% of all matter & if *earth* is 10% of all matter, then how much matter is *air*? Explain your answer (by showing your work).

2. Heraclitus pioneered three theories: the flux theory, the unity of opposites theory, and the logos theory.
- (i) Consider how Heraclitus said, “The road up and the road down are the same road.” Which theory did he have in mind?
 - (ii) Consider how Heraclitus said, “We cannot step in the same river twice.” Which theory did he have in mind?
 - (iii) Consider how Heraclitus said, “On a circle’s circumference, the beginning and the end are the same point!” Which theory did he have in mind?
 - (iv) Consider how Heraclitus said, “Our world is an eternal fire, which always *has been* burning, and it always *will be* burning.” Which theory did he have in mind?
 - (v) Consider how Heraclitus said, “By asking and answering my own questions, I have taught myself everything that I’ve ever learned, because my soul contains everything that I’ve ever needed to answer my own questions.” Which theory did he have in mind?
 - (vi) Consider how Heraclitus said, “There’s a new sun each day.” Which theory did he have in mind?
 - (vii) Consider how Heraclitus said, “The common world (κοινός κόσμος) is common to everyone who is awake, but many people are asleep, and so they live as if they exist in their own private world (ίδιος κόσμος).” Which theory did he have in mind?
 - (viii) Consider how Heraclitus said, “God is day and night, winter and summer, war and peace, and satiety and famine.” Which theory did he have in mind?
 - (ix) Consider how Heraclitus said, “The bow (βίος) is named after life (βίος), but its job is death (θάνατος)!” Which theory did he have in mind?
 - (x) Which of his theories is best summed up as “the only constant is change”?

3. In epistemology, the two main theories of knowledge are rationalism and empiricism.

(i) What is *rationalism*? (If you don't remember, you can look it up.)

(ii) What is *empiricism*? (If you don't remember, you can look it up.)

(iii) Was Heraclitus a rationalist or an empiricist?

(iv) *Explain* your answer to the previous subquestion.

(v) According to Heraclitus, why might someone's senses not always be reliable?

4. Heraclitus had very strong opinions about virtues such as wisdom (σοφία) and temperance (σωφροσύνη).

(i) According to Heraclitus, who was the wisest Greek of all?

(ii) How did Heraclitus describe the difference between godly wisdom and human wisdom?

(iii) Heraclitus describes wisdom in two interrelated ways. What were the two ways the he described wisdom?

• _____.

• _____.

(iv) According to legend, the Delphic maxims were words of wisdom that had been authored by the Seven Sages of Greece, and three of the Delphic Maxims were the entrance maxims. What were the three entrance maxims? (Note: If you don't remember them, see Unit 4.)

• _____.

• _____.

• _____.

(v) According to Heraclitus, which one of those three entrance maxims promotes the virtue of temperance?

