

Unit 10 - Homework 2: Plato's *Parmenides* Dialogue

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In order to answer the following questions, read pages 16—27 in Unit 10. On those pages, you will read Plato's logical dialogue titled "The *Parmenides*" (or "*On Ideas*").

1. While he was in Athens with his teacher Parmenides of Elea, Zeno of Elea publicly read his book of the forty logical arguments (τους τετταρακοντα λογους), and Socrates was in the audience.
 - (i) Socrates made a remark about how Parmenides and Zeno had very similar teachings. According to Socrates, what was the main difference between their teachings?
 - (ii) According to Zeno, what was a reason why he wrote a book on forty paradoxical logical arguments?
2. Zeno said, "If multiple things *exist*, then things must be both and like each other and unlike each other, but things *can't* be both alike and unlike, so multiple things *don't* exist." Yet on the basis of the theory of ideal forms, Socrates disagreed with Zeno.
 - (i) According to Socrates, how can things be *alike* (or be *like* each other)?
 - (ii) According to Socrates, how can things be *unlike* (or be *unlike* each other)?
 - (iii) According to Socrates, can two separate things ever be both like each other and unlike each other at the very same time? Why or why not? Explain.
 - (iv) According to Socrates, how can something possibly be *one* thing and *multiple* things at the very same time?

3. According to Socrates, if something is both *one* thing and *multiple* things at the very same time, then it is a unity of opposites.
 - (i) According to Socrates, *some* things are the kind of thing that can be a unity of opposites. According to him, what *can* be a unity of opposites?
 - (ii) According to Socrates, some things *aren't* the kind of thing that can be a unity of opposites. According to him, what *cannot* be a unity of opposites?
4. On the one hand, Socrates was *sure* about whether or not *certain* ideal forms exist. Yet on the other hand, he was *unsure* about whether or not certain *other* ideal forms exist.
 - (i) According to Socrates, what are *at least four* ideal forms that surely *exist*? (4%)
 - (ii) Socrates was *unsure* about whether or not certain other ideal forms exist. What are *three* examples of such ideal forms? (3%)
 - (iii) According to Socrates, what are *three* ideal forms that surely *don't* exist? (3%)

5. According to Socrates, if the 'one-over-many' theory is true, then everything that participates in greatness (μέγεθος) is something great (μέγας), everything that participates in beauty (κάλλος) is something that is beautiful (καλός), everything that participates in justice (δικαιοσύνη) is something just (δίκαιά), and so on. In light of that reasoning of his, answer the following (sub)questions.

- (i) If something participates in *heaviness*, then what is it?
- (ii) If something participates in *redness*, then what is it?
- (iii) If something participates in *sweetness*, then what is it?
- (iv) If something participates in *hotness* (or the ideal form of *heat*), then what is it?
- (v) If something participates in *humanness* (or the essence of *humanity*), then what is it?
- (vi) If something participates in *fieriness* (or the ideal form of *fire*), then what is it?
- (vii) If something participates in *wateriness* (or the ideal form of *water*), then what is it?
- (viii) If something participates in *hairiness* (or the ideal form of *hair*), then what is it?
- (ix) If something participates in *muddiness* (or the ideal form of *mud*), then what is it?
- (x) Is something participates in *worthlessness*, then what is it?

6. According to Parmenides, why does Socrates believe the theory of ideal forms?

7. Third Man Argument

(i) Yes-or No -

According to Socrates and Parmenides, if every ideal form is a whole, then what are the only two possible ways for something to participate in an ideal form?

(ii) Multiple Choice -

According to Parmenides and Socrates, if every ideal form is a whole, then whatever participates in an ideal form *either* participates in the *whole* ideal form *or* the thing participates in only *part* of the whole ideal form. According to them, if every ideal form is a whole, then what is the one and only way for something to participate in an ideal form? (Note: This is a multiple-choice question.)

(iii) According to Parmenides, what is the only way for greatness to be great?

(iv) According to Parmenides, if greatness is great, then why can't there be only one greatness (or ideal form of the great)?

(v) According to Parmenides, if *every* greatness is something great, then *how many* greatnesses exist?

8. The Greatest Difficulty (or *Aporia*)

(i) According to Parmenides, the gods can know only about *which* things? (2.5%)

(ii) According to Parmenides, the gods *cannot* know only about *which* things? (2.5%)

(iii) According to Parmenides, humans can know only about *which* things? (2.5%)

(iv) According to Parmenides, humans *cannot* know only about *which* things? (2.5%)

9. Parmenides and young Socrates discussed mereology.

(i) According to Parmenides, if something is unlimited, then why does it have no parts at all? (2%)

(ii) According to Parmenides, if something has no parts at all, then why does it have no shape at all? (2%)

(iii) According to Parmenides, if something has no parts at all, then why is it nowhere at all? (2%)

(iv) According to Parmenides, if something can move, then what are the only two ways that it can ever possibly move? (4%)

(a) _____ (2%)

(b) _____ (2%)

10. According to Parmenides, if something has no parts at all, then it cannot move at all. Hence according to him, if something has no parts at all, then it's utterly motionless.

(i) According to Parmenides, if something has no parts at all, then why can't it spin in the place where it is? (5%)

(ii) According to Parmenides, if something has no parts at all, then why can't it change place (or move from place to place)? (5%)