

Unit 11 - Homework 2: Plato's *Protagoras* Dialogue

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In order to answer the following questions, read Plato's *Protagoras* dialogue, which you can find on pages 41—45 of Unit 11.

1. According to Protagoras, what *good* does a sophist do? (10%)

2. According to Protagoras, what are the five civic virtues? (The order doesn't matter.)

(i) _____ (2%)

(ii) _____ (2%)

(iii) _____ (2%)

(iv) _____ (2%)

(v) _____ (2%)

3. Socrates and Protagoras debated about whether virtue is nature or nurture. According to Protagoras, virtue is *nurture* (rather than *nature*). Yet despite his initial doubts Socrates was ultimately persuaded by the philosophical sophist.

(i) At first, Socrates *doubted* that virtue can be taught, but *why* did he have his doubts about the *teachability* of virtue? (5%)

(ii) How did Protagoras explain to Socrates why even the most *highly* virtuous person cannot always turn a *non-virtuous* person (such as a *vicious* or *evil* person) into a *virtuous* person? (5%)

4. How did Socrates convince Protagoras that nobody unjust can be temperate? (10%)
5. How did Socrates convince Protagoras that wisdom and temperance are very similar virtues? (10%)
6. During the course of his discussion with Socrates, Protagoras came to believe that four of the five civic virtues were very similar to each other, because he came to believe that those four virtues were simply different kinds of knowledge.
- (i) Which *four* of the five civic virtues did Protagoras believe were very similar to each other? (The order doesn't matter.)
- (a) _____ (2%)
- (b) _____ (2%)
- (c) _____ (2%)
- (d) _____ (2%)
- (ii) Which *one* of the five civic virtues did Protagoras believe was entirely different than the other *four* of the five civic virtues? (2%)
7. According to Socrates, courage requires both *knowledge* and *confidence*, such that there's more than one way for someone to be uncourageous. According to Socrates, both cowards and maniacs are uncourageous, but cowards and maniacs are not uncourageous in the same way. Accordingly, answer the following two multiple-choice questions.
- (i) According to Socrates, who is confident but ignorant? According to him, who has confidence but lacks knowledge? A coward or a maniac? (5%)
- (ii) According to Socrates, who lacks both confidence and knowledge? A coward or a maniac? (5%)

