

Unit 10 — Test (Socratic Circle): Cause of Death

1. Inner Circle -

While he was on the 80th floor of a very tall skyscraper, Ronald Opus was pushed off of the balcony. Yet as he was falling passed the 9th floor, his life was interrupted by a shotgun blast through the window of an apartment on the 9th floor. The bullet from the shotgun struck him in the head, and he died instantly. Hence rather than dying from the fall, he died from a gunshot wound to his head. Who killed Ronald Opus? What was the main cause of his death? Explain.



Outer Circle - In the inner circle, *who* disagreed (and *why*)?

If nobody disagreed at all, then everybody agreed about *what* (and *why*)?

2. Inner Circle -

Unbeknownst to the shooter, an unbreakable safety net had been erected at the 5th floor. So, if Mr. Opus hadn't been struck in the head by the bullet while he was falling passed the 9th floor, then he would have survived the fall, because the safety net would have caught him at the 5th floor. So, who killed Ronald Opus? What was the main cause of his death? Explain.

Outer Circle - In the inner circle, *who* disagreed (and *why*)?
If nobody disagreed at all, then everybody agreed about *what* (and *why*)?

3. Inner Circle -

Assume that the safety net was erected by the pusher (and *only* by the punisher). In that case, who killed Ronald Opus? What was the main cause of his death? Explain.

Outer Circle - In the inner circle, *who* disagreed (and *why*)?
If nobody disagreed at all, then everybody agreed about *what* (and *why*)?

4. **Inner Circle** -

Assume that the safety net was erected by Ronald Opus himself (and *only* by himself). So, who killed Ronald Opus? What was the main cause of his death? Explain.

Outer Circle - In the inner circle, *who* disagreed (and *why*)?

If nobody disagreed at all, then everybody agreed about *what* (and *why*)?

5. **Inner Circle** -

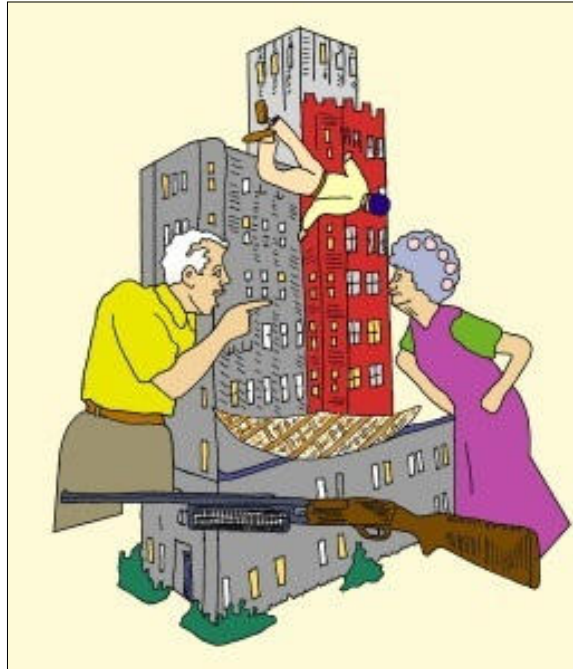
Assume that the safety net was erected by *both* Ronald Opus *and* the pusher *together*, and assume that Ronald Opus *wanted* to be pushed off of the balcony. In that case, who killed Ronald Opus? What was the main cause of his death? Explain.

Outer Circle - In the inner circle, *who* disagreed (and *why*)?

If nobody disagreed at all, then everybody agreed about *what* (and *why*)?

6. **Inner Circle** -

The bullet that killed Ronald Opus had come through the window of a 9th floor apartment that was home to an elderly couple. At the time when Ronald Opus died, the elderly couple were having a heated argument with each other, and the husband was threatening his wife with a shotgun.



Even though the old man was *trying* to aim the gun at his wife, he'd become so upset that he couldn't hold the shotgun straight. Hence when he pulled the trigger, he totally missed his wife, and the bullet from his gun travelled out of the apartment window, where it struck Ronald Opus in the head. Who killed Ronald Opus? What was the main cause of his death? Explain.

Outer Circle - In the inner circle, *who* disagreed (and *why*)?

If nobody disagreed at all, then everybody agreed about *what* (and *why*)?

7. **Inner Circle** -

Neither the husband nor the wife knew that the shotgun was loaded. It was the longtime habit of the husband to threaten his wife with an unloaded shotgun. He had *no intent* to murder her. In fact, he had *no intention of killing anyone at all*. Alas, the gun was loaded by accident! In that case, who killed Ronald Opus? What was the main cause of his death? Explain.

Outer Circle - In the inner circle, *who* disagreed (and *why*)?

If nobody disagreed at all, then everybody agreed about *what* (and *why*)?

8. **Inner Circle** -

Six weeks prior to the fatal accident, the elderly couple had cut off their son's financial support. Knowing how his father tended to use the unloaded shotgun threateningly, the son secretly loaded the gun with the expectation that the father would shoot his mother. That way, he would get back at his parents for cutting him off financially. So, who killed Ronald Opus? What was the main cause of his death? Explain.

Outer Circle - In the inner circle, *who* disagreed (and *why*)?

If nobody disagreed at all, then everybody agreed about *what* (and *why*)?

9. **Inner Circle** -

The elderly couple's angry son was none other than Ronald Opus himself. So, who killed Ronald Opus? What was the main cause of his death? Explain.

Outer Circle - In the inner circle, *who* disagreed (and *why*)?
If nobody disagreed at all, then everybody agreed about *what* (and *why*)?

10. While they were spectators attending a javelin-throw contest, Protagoras and Pericles sadly ended up as witnesses to the accidental death of their fellow-spectator Epitimus.



Indeed during the javelin-throw contest, one of the athletes accidentally killed Epitimus with a javelin, and then Pericles and Protagoras spent the rest of the day investigating the

question of what *mainly* caused the accidental death of poor Epitimus. In light of everything that you have experienced in both the *inner* Socratic circle and the *outer* Socratic circle, answer the following five questions.

- (i) In your opinion, was the *javelin* the main cause of death?
Why or why not? Explain.

- (ii) In your opinion, was the *athlete* the main cause of death?
Why or why not? Explain.

- (iii) In your opinion, were the *judges of the competition* the main cause of death?
Why or why not? Explain.

- (iv) In your opinion, were the *spectators* the main cause of death?
Why or why not? Explain.

- (v) In your opinion, was poor *Epitimus* the main cause of his own death?
Why or why not? Explain.