

Rationalism, Power, and Human Nature

Notes Answers

Grade Type: Classwork

Due Date: Upon completion of the associated Presentation

Instructions: The following notes answers are to be copied into your Philosophy notebook. There are **no** corresponding questions; the notes have been written in such a way that it is clear what the answers are answering.

On the due date, using your iPad, take clear pictures of all your notes. In a fresh document in goodnotes, create a single file with all of the answers in order. Make sure the pictures are large enough so that each answer is clearly readable. Check to see if you have any questions missing. At the top of the document, write how many notes you have written out of the total (32). If any are missing, write which ones are missing and let me know if you plan to finish them and if so, when I can expect to see them. Upload this document to this dropbox on Archie. This is a classwork grade.

1. A key part of Plato's idea about human nature is that humans are capable of, and want to seek new knowledge about themselves and the world around them. They can do this without irrationally relying on gods/poets/power and popular people
2. Plato tells us what knowledge is and how to seek it. Knowledge is justified true belief, and we seek it using the Socratic Method
3. We have considered two major problems with Plato's views: 1) Human's can't seek knowledge because it required opposite values. 2) Meno's Paradox
4. To solve Meno's Paradox we can use an analogy between building new knowledge and building a new house
5. The three things we need to build a new house if we don't have one:
 - 1) The ability/power to build a house
 - 2) The stuff to build the house with
 - 3) The desire to build the house
6. The three things we need to come up with clear and obvious examples of something we're trying to define if we don't know the definition:
 - 1) The ability/power to recognize clear and obvious examples
 - 2) Stuff in the world that is an example
 - 3) The desire to come up with clear and obvious examples
7. The theory that humans have an ability to recognize clear and obvious examples accurately predicts that their experience of the world and their own minds is NOT a totally confusing mass of unrelated things

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8. Thoughts are information from the world organized and recognized by definitions and theories.
9. In a thought:
 - 1) Information comes from the world
 - 2) Thoughts are in our minds
 - 3) Definitions and Theories are between the world and the mind
10. Definitions/Theories are not thoughts (even though we have thoughts about what our definitions and theories are). Definitions/Theories are the abilities and powers we have to organize information into thoughts.
11. Thoughts are like mental images and Definitions/Theories are like glasses. Glasses organize visual information into mental images just like definitions/theories organize information into thoughts.
12. Forms and Concepts are abilities/powers that organize and order information into physical sense perceptions
13. Some examples of Forms and Concepts: Space, Time, Cause/Effect
14. Rules are abilities/powers that organize and display behavior into skills
15. Some examples of skills: Reasoning, Language, Mathematics
16. The rules of reasoning are logic
17. The rules of language are grammar
18. The rules of mathematics are functions/operators/theorems
19. Abilities/powers are potentials, skills are applied abilities, and habits are well developed skills
20. Empiricism is the view that knowledge comes from sense experience alone
21. Rationalism is the view that knowledge requires more than sense experience alone; it requires the exercise of abilities/powers
22. If rationalism is true, then empiricism is false (and vice versa)
23. The theory that all humans have the same ability/power to recognize clear and obvious examples accurately predicts that all human thought recognizes and organizes objects and actions in similar ways
24. Space is a collection of places organized and ordered by relations (such as above/below, in front of/behind, next to/far away, etc.)
25. The theory that all humans have the same ability/power to place things and events in space, time, and cause/effect accurately predicts that all human physical sense perceptions are organized and ordered in the same ways
26. The theory that all humans have the same ability/power to use the rules of logic, grammar, and functions/operators, theorems accurately predicts that all human skills are organized and displayed in the same ways
27. Something is innate if we're born with it. If empiricism is true, then knowledge is not innate. If rationalism is true, then knowledge is innate

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28. The Bouba/Kiki example attempts to demonstrate that knowledge is innate
29. A rationalist who believes that many definitions are innate is not required to think that all definitions are innate
30. It is not a good argument against the rationalist to say that definitions are not innate since words change their meanings. This misunderstands what Plato is saying. A definition, according to Plato, is what something is. A meaning is an association of symbols/noises with something.
31. According to Plato, definitions are not meanings. Meanings are the stuff of language. These meanings combine with the rules of grammar to make language possible
32. Plato tries to solve Meno's Paradox with the following three claims:
 - 1) Innately, humans have the ability/power to recognize clear/obvious examples (the ability/power IS the definition/theory)
 - 2) The world provides information: the stuff in the world that is an example
 - 3) Humans love knowledge (because we lack it); so, we are motivated to use this ability/power