

Unit 18 - Classwork 6: Plato's *Meno* Dialogue (2)

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In order to answer the following questions, read pages 11–27 in Unit 18.

1. When asked to say what virtue is, Meno's very *first* answer failed to convince Socrates. (Pages 12–13)

(i) On what virtue is, what was Meno's *first* answer?

(ii) According to Meno, *how* are manly virtue and womanly virtue *different*?

(iii) According to Socrates (and Meno), how are manly virtue and womanly virtue the *same*?

(iv) According to Socrates (and Meno), *which* virtues are virtues for *both* men *and* women *alike*?

(v) According to Socrates (and Meno), *which* virtues are virtues for *both* young people *and* old people *alike*?

2. When asked to say what virtue is, Meno's *second* answer also failed to convince Socrates. (Pages 13–14)

(i) On what virtue is, what was Meno's *second* answer?

(ii) According to Socrates, what's wrong with Meno's second answer?

(iii) How did Socrates try to improve Meno's second answer?

(iv) According to Socrates, justice is not virtue. What did he mean by that?

(v) Since justice is a virtue, if virtue is to do something *justly*, then virtue is what? (Note: You will have to connect the dots.)

3. When asked to say what virtue is, Meno's *third* answer once again failed to convince Socrates. (Page 14–15)

(i) On what virtue is, what was Meno's *third* answer? (State both parts of his third answer.)

- _____.
- _____.

(ii) Based on his third answer to the question about what virtue is, why did Meno think that not everyone is virtuous? In order to answer the question, fill in the blanks.

LINE-1	All virtuous people desire _____.	Premise 1
LINE-2	All _____ are _____.	Premise 2
LINE-3	All virtuous people desire _____.	Conclusion 1, from Line-2 & Line-3
LINE-5	Not all people desire _____.	Premise 3
LINE-6	Not all people are _____.	Conclusion 2, from Line-3 & Line-4

(iii) According to Socrates, nobody desires bad things. Yet, how did he explain why people *seem* to desire bad things?

4. In the end, even Meno's *fourth* (and *final*) answer *still* failed to convince Socrates. (Pages 14–15)

(i) On what virtue is, what was Meno's *fourth* answer?

(ii) According to Socrates, what's wrong with Meno's fourth answer?

(iii) How did Socrates try to improve Meno's fourth answer?

(iv) According to Socrates, what's wrong with his improvement of Meno's fourth answer?
(Hint: It's the same flaw as the flaw in the improved version of Meno's second answer.)

5. According to Meno, if he and Socrates don't know what virtue is, then can they discover what virtue is? Why or why not? Explain.