

## Unit 18 - Classwork 8: Plato's *Meno* Dialogue (6)

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In order to answer the following questions (about the conversation between Socrates and Anytus), read pages 23–25 in Unit 18.

1. According to Socrates, what kind of prudence and virtue did Meno seek?
2. According to Anytus, why can't the sophists teach Meno the kind of prudence and virtue that he sought?
3. On what Anytus thought about the sophists, fill in the blanks for the following polysyllogism.

L1	If the sophists teach harmful lessons, then either the sophists <i>knowingly</i> teach harmful lessons, or the sophists <i>unknowingly</i> teach harmful lessons.	assumption
L2	_____.	Anytus' Opinion
L3	Either _____, or _____.	By <i>modus ponens</i> , this is the conclusion of L1 & L2.
L4	_____.	Anytus' Opinion
L5	_____.	By disjunctive syllogism, this is the conclusion of L3 & L4.

4. Socrates and Anytus discussed how something is teachable only if someone is a teacher of it.

(i) According to Anytus, who can teach someone the art of medicine?

(ii) According to Anytus, who can teach someone the art of shoemaking?

(iii) According to Anytus, who can teach someone the art of flute-playing?

(iv) According to Anytus, who could teach Meno prudence and virtue that Meno sought?

5. On what Anytus thought about *how* good Athenians are good, fill in the blanks for the following polysyllogism.

LINE 1	Either every good Athenian is good by <i>nature</i> , or every good Athenian is good by <i>nurture</i> .	assumption
LINE 2	If <i>every</i> good Athenian is good by nature, then <i>some</i> good Athenian is good by nature.	assumption
LINE 3	If <i>every</i> good Athenian is good by nurture, then <i>some</i> good Athenian is good by nurture.	assumption
LINE 4	_____.	Anytus' opinion about whether or not a good Athenian is good by nature.
LINE 5	_____.	By <i>modus ponens</i> , this follows from Line 2 & Line 4.
LINE 6	_____.	By disjunctive syllogism, this follows from Line 1 & Line 5.

6. According to Anytus, if a good Athenian was taught to be good, then who'd've taught the good Athenian how to be good?

7. On how Pericles was different from his own sons, Anytus said what Socrates had said in Plato's *Protagoras* dialogue. (See page 42 in Unit 11.)

(i) According to Anytus, how was Pericles different from his sons Paralus and Xanthippos?

(ii) In Plato's *Protagoras* dialogue, how did Protagoras try to explain to Socrates why Pericles was so different than his sons? (See pages 41–42 in Unit 11.)

8. According to Anytus and Socrates, did Pericles want his sons to be bad? Why or why not? Explain.

9. According to Socrates, if he and Anytus had *accurately* evaluated Pericles, then is virtue teachable? Why or why not? Explain.  
(Hint: In rare agreement with each other, Socrates and Anytus thought, “Pericles was good, and he wanted his sons to be good. For that reason, he gave his sons what he thought was the best education. Yet even so, his sons turned out to be bad.”)

10. According to Socrates, if Anytus knows what badmouthing is, then Anytus doesn't think that Socrates is badmouthing Pericles. Accordingly, if Anytus thought that Socrates *is* badmouthing Pericles, then *what* did Anytus *think*?