Chapter 12 - Assignment 3: Plato's *First Alcibiades* Dialogue (1)

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In order to answer the following questions, see pages 9—14 of Chapter 12.

1. According to Socrates, why didn't he previously try to speak to Alcibiades?

2. According to Socrates, why did he eventually speak to Alcibiades?

3. Speaking to Alcibiades, Socrates said, "Imagine that a god were to ask, 'If you will never have more than whatever you have right now, do you prefer to live with what you have or do you prefer to die right now?'" According to Socrates, if Alcibiades thought that he would never have more than what he already had, then why would he prefer to have died?

4. According to Socrates, why does Alcibiades need him?

5. Alcibiades wanted to advise his fellow Athenians about something.

    (i) According to Alcibiades, why should his fellow Athenians take his advice?

    (ii) What kind of advice did Alcibiades want to give to his fellow Athenians?

6. According to Alcibiades, why would he *not* advise Athens to go to war for *unjust* reasons?

7. According to Alcibiades, he learned how to tell the difference between justice and injustice in the same way that he learned Greek. Yet according to Socrates, how is learning Greek different than learning how to tell the difference between justice and injustice?

8. According to Socrates, if someone is ignorant about their own ignorance, then why can't they be virtuous?

9. According to Alcibiades, why *doesn't* he need an education to be a politician in Athens?

10. According to Socrates, Alcibiades had the two main political rivals. Who were they?