Chapter 15 - Assignment 5: Plato's *Minos* Dialogue — [1]

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In order to answer the following questions, read pages 21—23 in Chapter 15.

1. Speaking to his companion, Socrates asked, "What is law?"

   (i) What was the companion's first answer to the question?
   (Hint: The companion's first answer was a *rhetorical question*.)

   (ii) Why wasn't Socrates convinced by the companion's first answer to the question?

   (iii) What was the companion's *second* answer to the question?

   (iv) Why wasn't Socrates convinced by the companion's second answer?

   (v) What was the companion's *third* answer to the question?

2. The companion discussed obedience and disobedience to the law.

   (i) According to the companion, what causes someone to *obey* the law?

   (ii) According to the companion, what causes someone to *disobey* the law?

3. Socrates discuss how virtue and vice respectively preserve and destroy cities.

   (i) According to Socrates, which virtue preserves cities?

   (ii) According to Socrates, which vice destroys cities?

4. According to Socrates, if laws and decisions are different, then why was his companion's *third* definition of "law" wrong?

5. According to Socrates, if criminals are given different punishments for the very same crime, then what is being misunderstood about the law?