

Section 6: Socratic Method and Dialogue Analysis

Notes Answers

Grade Type: Homework

Due Date: Upon completion of the section

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 (25). 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 homework grade.

1. The Peloponnesian War begins in 431 BCE and ends in 404 BCE. Plato is born in 427. Socrates is executed in 399 BCE.
2. The context for the development of Plato's philosophy and the Socratic Method is the defeat of Athens in the Peloponnesian War and the Athenians blaming Socrates for their defeat.
3. If Athens had not been defeated, Plato might have had a more positive view of Athenian politics and would have tried to help his city by being a politician. Instead, he tries to help them by being a philosopher.
4. As a result of his context, Plato has a negative view of democracy, heroic honor/justice, mythology and poetic education and human nature, and the ideal of heroism. His philosophy and the Socratic Method must be an alternative to these things.
5. Athens is feeling anxiety about their culture because of their loss in the war and are wondering about how they could have been so wrong and what the right answers are.
6. Plato thinks strength, randomness, and popularity are not the just and best way to make decisions. He thinks working to achieve knowledge is the best way to have beliefs and make decisions.
7. The Socratic Method involves two people having a conversation in which they share the goal of finding the truth. Each person plays a different role.
8. The positive role in the Socratic Method proposes solutions to questions (theories/definitions) by examining their intuitions and ideas.

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9. The negative role in the Socratic Method objects to solutions by finding problems using counterexamples and analogies.
10. The value endorsed by the positive role is believe truths.
11. The value endorsed by the negative role is avoid falsehoods.
12. The reason why the Socratic Method needs at least two people is the pursuit of knowledge of the truth requires both values to be endorsed. But the values are contradictory. So, one person can only do one at a time.
13. Agnes Callard compares the Socratic Method to Criminal Justice in a courtroom.
14. Like Socratic Method, Criminal Justice requires two opposite roles: the defense and the prosecution.
15. The Steps of the Socratic Method
 1. Come up with obvious examples of what we're trying to define
 2. Ask: what do all and only the examples have in common
 3. Whatever they all and only have in common is the starter definition
 4. Test the definition by thinking of possible counterexamples using analogies
 5. (if needed) Revise the definition and continue testing
16. Socrates is famously ugly. Plato uses this to challenge the Athenian emphasis on beauty and popularity in a democratic society.
17. The Halo Effect is a psychological bias that incorrectly associates high character and knowledge with beauty.
18. In the Beauty Contest Dialogue, Socrates and Critobulus discuss the definition of beauty using the Socratic Method. Socrates gets Critobulus to agree to a definition of beauty that says Socrates is more beautiful than Critobulus.
19. Critobulus thinks that the definition of beauty that Socrates has helped him come up with is true. But, he also thinks that it's obvious that he is more beautiful than Socrates. Only one of those two things can be true (even though he thinks they're both true).
20. Socratic Irony is a technique in which Socrates presents himself as ignorant but eager to learn about something from someone who mistakenly thinks they are an expert.
21. The Dunning-Kruger Effect is a psychological bias where the less people know about something, the more they think they know. And inversely, the more people know about something, the less they think they know.
22. Socratic Irony is important in the Socratic Method because it encourages a positive role person to start talking to a negative role person.
23. For someone to wonder about something, they must feel ignorant since no one wonders about something they think they know. In the Socratic Method, this feeling of ignorance is called Aporia ("puzzlement" or "confusion").
24. The two possible outcomes of Aporia are Curiosity/Wonder or Anger/Being Offended.
25. A skillful philosopher knows how to manage emotions in a conversation. They are skilled at using Socratic Irony, and the know how to use Aporia to lead to Wonder rather than Anger.