

## Ancient & Medieval Philosophy Study Guide 1

### Presocratics

Heraclitus makes two statements about a river. What are they, and what is he trying to show by it?

Give Parmenides' argument that there can only be one thing in the world.

Give one of Zeno's arguments. What is Zeno trying to show by giving the argument?

What does Protagoras' motto? How does Protagoras think we come to the truth? Why?

### Socrates/Plato

Briefly describe Socrates' life, the accusations of the court, and how Socrates' life led to these accusations.

#### *Phaedo*

Give Socrates' argument that we should not fear death. What premise do his interlocutors reject?

What are forms? Why does Socrates think they exist?

Using the theory of recollection, say why Socrates thinks we are a soul that exists before our birth.

Why does Socrates think the soul exists after our death? (See the first objection to his view of the soul and his reply about the soul not having parts.)

Why doesn't Socrates think the soul is just the way a person is organized?

#### *Euthyphro*

Why does Socrates' ask people for definitions? Why doesn't Euthyphro's last definition satisfy Socrates?

What is Euthyphro's dilemma? What problems does it create in contemporary theology?

#### *Meno*

What is the problem of the criterion? When exactly is it a problem?

What is the Meno problem?

Does Socrates think virtue can be taught? If so, what is his reason? If not, how does he think people can become virtuous, and why?

#### *Theaetetus*

Give three reasons Socrates thinks knowledge is not whatever you make it to be. (This is Socrates' response to Protagoras.)

#### *Republic*

What does Thrasymachus say justice is? Why does Thrasymachus think injustice better than justice?

Why does Socrates disagree?

What does Socrates' ideal city look like, and how does that help Socrates discover justice in an individual?

What does Socrates say justice is at the end of book 4? How does it compare to wisdom, courage, and moderation?

Give Socrates' cave illustration, and say what the illustration is supposed to show about education, the forms, philosophy, and the conversation Socrates is having.

Write Socrates' divided line and its segments, and explain what the line is meant to show about the goal of education.

What kind of governments does Socrates mention, and what do souls with those governments look like? How do these governments relate to justice?

### **Aristotle**

What kind of thing does Aristotle think we are? Do we have a body? A soul? Are we either of these? State Aristotle's four kinds of explanations with a brief description of each. Be prepared to give each kind of explanation for a sample sentence.

What does Aristotle think every action ultimately aims for? Does he think we need to intentionally aim for this? Does he think even evil actions aim for this? How so?

What are some intellectual virtues, according to Aristotle?

What stages does one go through when developing a moral virtue? (Be able to draw the chart.)

What is the golden mean? Does Aristotle think that everyone should experience every emotion moderately all the time?

Is Aristotle's moral theory absolute or relative to contexts? Explain your answer.

Give three examples of virtues, the disposition they are virtues of, and the related excess and defect of that disposition.

What are the three kinds of friendship, according to Aristotle? How many of each should we have, and when should we dissolve those friendships?

What characteristic does Aristotle say shows that a person has lived a well-lived life? Why does he say that?

What kinds of justice does Aristotle say there are, and what is distinctive of each one? How does he use this to critique Plato's idea of justice?

### **Stoics, Epicureans, Skeptics**

How do the Stoics, Epicureans, and Skeptics respond to the fatalism argument? How do they think we should live? Do Stoics think we should get rid of all emotions? Why or why not?

Give two arguments for Stoicism.

Give two suggestions Stoics provide for how we can detach ourselves from things we cannot control.

What does Epicurus think our ultimate goal should be? Does he think we should indulge in pleasures? Why or why not?

Give the Skeptics' argument that we do not know anything. How did this affect how they thought we should live?