

Ancient Philosophy

Sample Questions

- 1) Outline Socrates's reply to *Euthyphro's* proposal that "the pious is what all gods love, and...what all gods hate, is the impious."
- 2) How does Socrates' distinction between knowledge and true belief in the *Meno* help disarm Meno's Paradox? Your answer should include a discussion of the Doctrine of Recollection.
- 3) At the outset of *Republic* Bk. 2, Glaucon suggests that Socrates has not succeeded in showing that "it is better in every way to be just than unjust" and challenges him to "defend justice in the way I want, proving it is better than injustice" and to show why we ought to "choose justice over the greatest injustice". What exactly is Glaucon's challenge to Socrates? How does Socrates eventually answer that challenge in Book 4?
- 4) How does Aristotle refute Zeno's Paradox of Dichotomy?
- 5) What does Aristotle mean by saying that sense "takes on the form" of the perceived object? What difficulties lie in the way of this theory of perception?
- 6) Compare Aristotle's explanation of akratic action in *Nicomachean Ethics*, VII to Socrates' explanation in the *Protagoras*.
- 7) According to Cicero, Epicurus was led to deny that propositions about non-necessary future states of affairs have truth-values. Why? Explain and assess Epicurus' reasons for taking this step.
- 8) Explain the Pyrrhonian skeptics' method of argument as outlined by Sextus Empiricus. Why do skeptics end up suspending judgment?