

## ***Apology 17a-24b***

1. 17a Given what Socrates states at 17a, what has just transpired in the trial? With respect to the charges he is facing, what is Socrates most surprised about?
2. 17c What is Socrates' attitude as he faces the court? What is it that Socrates is asking permission for? Why do you think he needs to do this? Make a quick sketch of the argument Socrates gives here.
3. 18a What does Socrates want the jury to concentrate on?
4. 18b-d How many sets of charges are there? Why is Socrates more concerned with one set of accusations than the other? Do you think that he's right to be concerned about their effect on the jury? To what sport does Socrates compare his task of defending himself? What is similar or dissimilar about Socrates' situation with the "first accusers" and the situation President Clinton had with his accusers?
5. Consider the following two sentences. Which sentence mentions the larger number? The latter sentence or the former? In this sentence the number 23 occurs. In this next sentence the number 1,348 occurs.
6. 18c What were the jurors told about Socrates when they were young?
7. 19a What is slander? Socrates acknowledges that he's going to have a hard time dislodging the old rumors and slander from the minds of the jury. Have you ever had someone say something slanderous or untrue about you? Did you ever have to try and change someone's mind about you, especially if they held that opinion about you for a long time?
8. 19b Socrates reformulated the "first charges". Rearrange them into argument form.
9. Aristophanes' *The Clouds* offers a "parody" of Socrates. What is a parody? Can you name a long-running TV show that parodies public figures?
10. 19c-d Socrates makes two claims in his defense against these charges. What are they?
11. 19e-20b Socrates is accused of "making the weaker argument the stronger". This is just another way of saying that Socrates is accused of being a \_\_\_\_\_. What was it that these people did when they came into town? Judging from what is said about one of them, Paros, what were they supposedly teaching?
12. 20c Note that for a second time Socrates denies having \_\_\_\_\_ about something. Do you think that he's being sincere?
13. 20d What is Socrates' explanation as to why such slander about him has developed? Isn't his explanation at odds with his earlier denial of having knowledge? What is the difference between having wisdom and having knowledge?

14. 20e Socrates distinguishes between two kinds of wisdom at 20d-e. What are they? Which one does Socrates confess to possessing? Which kind does he think the sophists supposedly possess?

15. 21a What is an "oracle"? Who was the Delphic oracle? What did the oracle say? Do you think that things like this happen today? What would such an event be like? What "disturbance" do you suppose is going on in court?

16. 21b-e What does Socrates think his mission is? How did he go about completing it? To what group does Socrates go first? What were the initial results? What did Socrates think these results showed? Why does Socrates think that he became so unpopular?

17. 21e-22a To what two groups does Socrates go next? What does he ask them to do? What do their responses suggest to Socrates? Do you think that Socrates' questions were fair? Do you think that his interpretation of the results was correct?

18. 22e-23b What question does Socrates ask himself after he conducted his survey? Why does Socrates think that his investigation was so misunderstood by others? What does Socrates think that the oracle truly meant? How would you have gone about interpreting the oracle?

19. 23b In what sense is Socrates' activity like that of a missionary of an evangelist?

20. 23c-d How did the young men become involved with Socrates' mission? Why do you think that the people being questioned became angry? Would you have become angry, too? What did they accuse Socrates of? What did Socrates think was actually behind their anger?

21. In what sense might these young men have been changed by the association with Socrates? Do you think this could have been seen as a corruption of their character? Have you ever changed your outlook on life due to your friendship or admiration of someone? How might this be construed as dangerous?

22. 23e-24b How does Socrates characterize the people who have been slandering him all these years? Does he think that his defense will persuade the jurors?

## Apology 24b-27e

1. 24b What are the charges the new accusers have made?
  2. 24d Who does Socrates call to the stand? Is he on the side of the prosecution or the side of the defense?
  3. 24d-25a Socrates assumes that if Meletus knows who harms the young, he should know who does what to the young? Does Meletus answer Socrates' question? What mistake does he make? When Meletus finally begins answering correctly who does he say makes the young better? Who alone is excluded?
  4. 25b Reconstruct Socrates' argument about benefiting and corrupting.
  5. 25c Why does Socrates claim that Meletus has no genuine concern for the young? Is Socrates being fair?
  6. 25c-26a. Socrates presents an argument about harming. Read carefully starting at 25c and write down all the important claims Socrates makes. Put them in your own words. Do not write the claims as *questions*. Turn them into declarative sentences. Number each claim (1, 2, 3, etc.) Remember to put the Stephanus numbers after each claim. Here are the first few claims:
    - (1) It is better to live among good people than bad people (25c).
    - (2) Bad persons harm people near them, good persons benefit them (25c).
    - (3) No one wants to be harmed (25d).
- After you've listed all the important claims Socrates makes, re-arrange them into a *logical* order. This may not always be in the same order in which they were given. What is the final conclusion? Does Socrates state this explicitly?
7. 26a Socrates makes a distinction between harming others intentionally and unintentionally. If he had harmed the young unintentionally, what should Meletus have done?
  8. 26c Socrates wants to clarify the charges that deal with impiety or the gods. What are the options Socrates presents to Meletus? Which one does Meletus select?
  9. 26d-e Anaxagoras' [*an-axe-a* (as in "a-ttitude")-*go-rass* (as in "grass")] theories were well known. People could buy his books downtown in the *agora* or marketplace in Athens. What seems to be Socrates' attitude toward Anaxagoras' views?
  10. 27a What leads Socrates to think that Meletus has contradicted himself? (compare 26b with 26e).
  11. 27b-28. Using the same procedure as you did for question #3, reconstruct Socrates' wonderful argument about believing in the gods. What examples of your own could be added to Socrates' list at 27c and 27e?

## Apology 28a-34b

1. (a) 28a-e What is Socrates' attitude toward the risk of death? What is Achilles' attitude toward death? What is he more afraid of than death? Is there anyone or any group in today's society that exhibits this same attitude or behavior?

(b) How is Socrates' attitude similar to Achilles'?

(c) In light of Socrates' view and your own experience or knowledge of people who believe as Achilles does, do you think that this attitude is a good one to have? Why or why? If there are exceptions you'd make, what are they?

(d) What wartime experience of his own does Socrates relate to the jury? What connection between the two does he make?

2. 28e-29a Explain what things Socrates believes are at stake with respect to abandoning one's post? What two posts is he describing? What action does he feel would be worse? Why?

3. 29a-29b Why does Socrates believe that people should not fear death? What does this have to do with being wise? He again repeats what conclusion he had reached earlier with respect to what the oracle said?

4. 29b What seems to be Socrates' code of ethics? Do you agree with him? If you don't agree, what is it about his view that you think are incorrect?

5. 29c-d What plea bargain, if offered to him, does Socrates say he would turn down? What would he say to such an offer? What is it that Socrates is committed to continuing?

6. 29e What contrasting values does Socrates vow to bring before the Athenians?

7. 30a On whose behalf does Socrates say he's questioning or examining others?

8. 30b Put Socrates' statement about wealth and virtue into your own words. Do you think that Socrates is correct? Why or why not? Is this a concern in our society?

9. 30c Socrates seems to be less concerned with being executed than with the jury understanding his actions. Have you ever been more concerned with being understood than with the consequences of the view you were trying to put across? Name other people throughout history, especially those today, who perhaps would do what Socrates is doing.

10. 30c-d Explain what Socrates means by saying that if he is killed his accusers will be more harmed than he will be.

11. 30e Socrates compares himself to what insect? What role does he think he's played in society? Who in our society has played this role? Is anyone doing this now?

12. 31b-c Do you think that obeying the god was an easy choice for Socrates? What tradeoff or sacrifice did he make?

13. 31d-32a Why wasn't Socrates directly involved with politics? What difficulties does Socrates say are in store for those who enter political life?

14. 32b-32e What is similar about his two deeds that Socrates describes? What do you think thinks shows about (a) Socrates' character and (b) his relationship to civil authority?

15. 33a-b Socrates offers what disclaimer regarding his conversations with others?

16. 33d-34b What does Socrates challenge Meletus to produce? What is Socrates' mini-argument about the families of the young men who might have been harmed by him (33d-34b)? Sketch it out.

## Apology 34b-42a

1. 34c-35e What is it that Socrates refuses to do? What are his reasons? Why might this refusal make the jury angry at him?
2. 35c What does Socrates expect from the jury? What is his mini-argument about courtroom behavior?
3. 34c-35e What is it that Socrates refuses to do? What are his reasons? Why might this refusal make the jury angry at him?
4. 35c What does Socrates expect from the jury? What is his mini-argument about courtroom behavior?
5. (35e-37e) Why does Socrates say that he's not surprised at the verdict? What counter penalty does Socrates suggest? Is Socrates speaking arrogantly? Why are the other options he considers unacceptable to him?
6. (38a) In this passage we find what is perhaps the most famous philosophical statement of all time. Why is Socrates in a double bind? Why is the unexamined life not worth living for anyone, especially Socrates?
7. (38c-e) Socrates again returns to discuss his conviction. What will the "conventional wisdom" be as to why he was executed? What does Socrates say the real reason is?
8. (39a-41c) What are Socrates' views on death and the fear of death? That is, what are his fundamental, deepest feelings about it? Imagine that you are going to make an argument out of Socrates' views about death. What sort of premises or assumptions would you need in order to make a valid argument whose conclusion reflects Socrates' views on death? What are your views? What sorts of beliefs do you have that can be traced back to this view?
9. (39d, 41d) Is killing Socrates ultimately going to help the Athenians? Why does he think that "a good man can't be harmed"? Do you think he's right? In what sense?
10. (39e-40c) What guides Socrates in his activities? [Pay close attention to this. Read the *Apology* again for evidence of when Socrates refers to this.]
11. (41d-42a) What is Socrates' attitude towards those who have just sentenced him to death? Explain what his final request of them is and how it relates to his sons.

**\*\*end Apology Questions\*\***