

Reading Guide #5

These reading guides are provided to assist you in your reading. I encourage you to read the material through, first, then go back to answer the questions. You are expected to have responses ready for class discussion. Only the boldfaced questions will appear on exams. Page numbers refer to the standard references, found in the margins in the Hackett edition.

Plato, *Euthyphro*

- 1. With what is Socrates charged, by Meletus? (Two parts of the charge are distinguished.)**
2. Who is Euthyphro prosecuting, and why?
3. Why does Socrates say that he wants to be Euthyphro's pupil?
- 4. What is Euthyphro's first definition of what is pious and impious? (5d)**
- 5. What is Socrates' objection to this definition?**
- 6. What is Euthyphro's second definition of what is pious? Why is this a better answer?**
- 7. "I did not ask you to tell me what same thing is both pious and impious, and it appears that what is loved by the gods is also hated by them." (8a-b) Explain. Why is this a problem for Euthyphro? How does he respond to this observation?**
8. Do people disagree that wrongdoers must be punished? When there are disagreements about injustice, about what do they dispute?
- 9. What is the final definition of pious and impious that Socrates and Euthyphro propose? (9e) How is this different from the second definition?**
- 10. "Is the pious loved by the gods because it is pious, or is it pious because it is loved by the gods?" (10a) Explain the difference between the two.**
11. What answer does Socrates give to the above question? Explain.
12. How does Socrates show that what the gods love and what is pious are different?
- 13. What question does Socrates ask about the relation between piety and justice? (11e-12a)**
- 14. How is shame part of fear, but fear is not part of shame? How does this relate to the connection between piety and justice?**
15. How does Euthyphro first describe piety, distinguishing it as part of justice? (12e) What problem with this description does Socrates find?
16. What problem does Socrates find in taking piety to be service to the Gods?
17. "Piety would then be a sort of trading skill between gods and men?" (14e) How do Socrates and Euthyphro arrive at this description of piety? What problem does Socrates find with this position?

Plato, *Apology*

18. What are the first accusations against which Socrates defends himself?
19. How does Socrates argue that he is not as wise as the sophists? What does he really mean?
- 20. How did Socrates try to test the claim of the oracle at Delphi? What was the result?**
21. How does Socrates defend his avoidance of public and personal affairs, and his poverty?
- 22. How does Socrates argue that he would not willingly corrupt the young?**
23. How does Socrates argue that he must believe in the gods?
- 24. Why does Socrates not fear death? How did this affect his behavior?**
25. Does Socrates offer to stop philosophizing in order to avoid punishment? Explain.

Plato, *Apology* (continued)

26. **Why does Socrates say that Meletus and Anytus can not harm him?**
 27. **“I was attached to this city by the god... as upon a great a noble horse which was somewhat sluggish because of its size and needed to be stirred up by a kind of gadfly.” (30e) Explain the analogy. How does this relate to Socrates’ assertion that he defends himself not for his sake, but for the sake of others?**
 28. Why didn’t Socrates engage in politics?
 29. Why, according to Socrates, do some people enjoy spending time with him?
 30. Why does Socrates refer to his supporters at the trial?
 31. Why does Socrates not bring his family forward at the trial?
 32. **After Socrates is found guilty, and Meletus recommends a death sentence, for what does Socrates’ ask as appropriate punishment?**
 33. **Why does Socrates reject the possible punishment of exile?**
 34. **“The unexamined life is not worth living.” (38a) Explain.**
 35. **What, specifically, does Socrates offer as his punishment?**
 36. **“It is not difficult to avoid death... it is much more difficult to avoid wickedness.” (39a-b) Explain. How, specifically, is Socrates using this statement?**
 37. How does Socrates argue that death may be a blessing?
 38. For what kind of vengeance does Socrates ask?
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Plato, *Crito*

39. How does Crito argue that his reputation will be damaged if Socrates does not escape? How does Socrates first respond?
40. How does Crito argue that Socrates should escape for the good of his children?
41. **How does Socrates argue that we should follow the opinion of the one, rather than that of the many, in matters of justice (47a-d)?**
42. How does Socrates respond to Crito’s arguments from money, reputation, and the upbringing of children?
43. **How does Socrates approach the question of whether to escape?**
44. **“One should never do wrong in return, nor injure any man, whatever injury one has suffered at his hands.” (49c) Explain.**
45. **Why do the laws oppose Socrates’ escape?**
46. **“You must either persuade [your country] or obey its orders, and endure in silence whatever it instructs you to endure, whether blows or bonds, and if it leads you into war to be wounded or killed, you must obey.” (51b) How does Socrates argue for this position?**
47. **In what three ways would Socrates wrong the laws if he disobeyed them?**
48. **How do Socrates’ actions, over his life, show his consent to the laws?**
49. **“You will also strengthen the conviction of the jury that they passed the right sentence on you...” (53b) Explain.**
50. **Who is harmed, according to the laws if he leaves? Who is harmed if he stays?**