

Reading Guide #1: Plato and Aristotle

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 not required to hand in written answers. You are expected to have responses ready for class discussion. Page numbers refer to Peter A. Morton, *A Historical Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind*, Broadview Press, 1997.

Plato, from *The Phaedo*, pp 15-25.

1. How does Socrates define death? (64c)
2. What kinds of activities concern the body, and not the soul? Is sensing a function of the body, or of the soul?
3. Why does the philosopher disdain the body?
4. How can we get closest to knowledge? What does this imply about the relationship between mind and body?
5. Why does the philosopher want to die?
6. How might some one be brave from fear, or temperate from intemperance? What does this show about bravery and temperance? What is the real virtue the philosopher seeks?
7. How does Cebes describe the soul, at 70a? What problem does Cebes raise for Socrates' account of death?
8. How does Socrates argue that the souls of the living come from the souls of the dead (The Cyclical Argument, 70c-72a)? Be specific. Evaluate this argument.
9. According to Socrates, why would a linear process lead all things to have the same form?
10. How does Cebes argue that knowledge is recollection?
11. What is recollection? How can it come from experiences of both similar and dissimilar items?
12. What is the equal itself, independent of equal things? How do we come to know about it?
13. Given that we know of the equal itself, how does Socrates argue that this knowledge must be with us from before birth?
14. How does the argument that knowledge is recollection lead to an argument that the soul exists independently of the body?
15. How does the argument that knowledge is recollection depend on the existence of the forms?

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Aristotle, from *On the Soul*, pp 39-41.

1. What are the three senses of substance? What distinguishes them from each other?
2. Why is the soul not just matter? What is the soul?
3. How does the eye of a statue differ from a real eye, in Aristotle's terms?
4. Why, according to Aristotle, is the soul inseparable from the body?
5. According to Aristotle, what is color? How do we see colors?
6. Why, given Aristotle's account of vision, can we not see things that are placed directly on our eyes, nor hear things that are placed directly on our ears?
7. "Thought must be related to what is thinkable, as sense is to what is sensible (p 42)." Explain.
8. What would it mean for the soul to be blended with the body? Why, according to Aristotle, can the soul not be blended with the body?
9. Why must there be more to the mind than the passive reception of forms?
10. What, about thought, is eternal?