

1. What does Meno accuse Socrates of at the start of the reading? How does Socrates interpret this criticism?

Socrates was accused for corrupting the youth of Athens.

Socrates said that he would have done it unintentionally and out of ignorance.

2. Explain the paradox/problem (the "Learner's Paradox") that Meno and Socrates talk about on the second page, concerning enquiry and learning and interpreting what we know.

If you already know something, it's unnecessary to ask. If you don't know about something, it's impossible to inquire.

3. Explain Plato's theory of innate knowledge, and how Socrates's conversation with Meno's servant boy is an attempt to demonstrate its truth.

If we haven't acquired a specific knowledge or concept from experience, it must be an innate knowledge that we learned before birth.

Socrates demonstrates this theory by interrogating a slave who knows nothing about Geometry.

1. In your own words, explain the deductive aspect of Aristotle's view of how we gain knowledge. What is a syllogism? What is a demonstration?

The mind must justify a given statement, because of the possibility of errors.

Syllogism is a method of deductive reasoning by drawing a conclusion from two premises.

Trees are woody plants, woody plants have roots, therefore all the trees have roots.