

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

Meno accuses Socrates of “torpedo-fish” which is someone who stuns them and puts them in a state of numbness. Socrates criticizes Meno for wanting to know how virtue is still when he does not even know what it is.

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.

The learner’s paradox problem is that if you don't know what you are looking for inquiry is impossible, if you know what you are looking for then inquiry is not necessary.

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.

Plato’s theory on innate knowledge is the idea that knowledge is already present within us without us having to learn it. Plato believed that this knowledge was stored in the soul and knowledge can be accessed through recollection. Socrates asks the servant boy a series of questions about geometry, the boy is to answer them correctly without any prior knowledge, to try and prove of the boy had any knowledge within him.

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?

Aristotle’s, view on how we gain knowledge is based on deductive reasoning. It is a form of logical reasoning where a conclusion is drawn from. A syllogism is a form of deductive reasoning where you have 2 premises that create a conclusion, you can even have wrong premises that give you the same conclusion, it can get very complicated.

2. What point does Aristotle make about how deduction by itself doesn't lead to truth about the world?

Aristotle makes the point that that deduction by itself can’t lead to the truth about the world. Deduction is a form of reasoning that is based on logical principles. That alone will not be enough to gain knowledge to the world, it would have to be combined with induction which is drawing from general conclusions from observations even then it’s much more than that.

3. Present in your own words the inductive process of gaining knowledge according to Aristotle, including the role of the senses, memory and generalization.

Aristotle’s way of gaining knowledge is a method of reasoning that start with observations, experiences, senses are all very important to gain knowledge in this

world, we can experience the world through our senses which is then stored in our memory, we have different smells and things that bring us back memories, memory is very important for knowledge that way we can recollect past experiences.