



Defending with Reason

Plato's *Apology* records Socrates' defense speech during his trial. In it, Socrates argues against charges of corrupting the youth and impiety, while also revealing his philosophy about truth, virtue, and death. The following questions test your comprehension of the main arguments. Circle the letter of the **best answer** for each question.

1. What was one of the main charges brought against Socrates?
 - A. Stealing from the treasury
 - B. Writing plays mocking politicians
 - C. Betraying Athens to Sparta
 - D. Corrupting the youth of Athens
2. How does Socrates respond to the charge of corrupting the youth?
 - A. He blames the poets.
 - B. He claims he is teaching them secret wisdom.
 - C. He argues that corrupting the youth would harm himself too, so he would never do it deliberately.
 - D. He admits guilt but asks for forgiveness.
3. What does Socrates say about fearing death?
 - A. Death is either a dreamless sleep or a chance to meet past thinkers, so it should not be feared.
 - B. Death should be feared above all else.
 - C. Death is the punishment for traitors.
 - D. Death is meaningless and not worth discussing.
4. How does Socrates describe his role in Athens?
 - A. A silent observer of society
 - B. A gadfly sent by the gods to stir the city awake
 - C. A judge of all citizens
 - D. A prophet who knows all truth
5. What does Socrates suggest as his "punishment"?
 - A. A fine of 100 drachmas
 - B. Exile to another city
 - C. Free meals at the Prytaneum, like an Olympic champion
 - D. Public humiliation in the Agora
6. Why does Socrates refuse to use emotional appeals, such as begging with his family before the jury?
 - A. He had no family left in Athens.
 - B. He was forbidden by law to do so.
 - C. He thought it would guarantee his acquittal.
 - D. He believed appeals to pity would dishonor truth and justice.