

## QUESTIONS ON ARISTOTLE

### Metaphysics (Ontology):

[See [Categories](#)]

1. How does Aristotle conceptualise the nature of reality?
2. What does 'substance' mean?
  3. What is a 'primary substance'?
  4. What is a 'secondary substance'?
5. What are the three characteristics of substance?
6. What do you understand by the term 'materialism'? In what sense is Aristotle a materialist?
7. How is Aristotle's theory of reality different from Plato's?

### Epistemology (Theory of Knowledge):

[See [Posterior Analytics](#) and [Physics](#)]

1. What, according to Aristotle, is the object of (scientific) knowledge?
2. How is (scientific) knowledge produced?
3. What is the foundation or 'starting-point' of the process by which scientific knowledge is produced?
4. What is the role played by a) sense-perception and b) memory in knowledge?
5. Aristotle argues that "scientific knowledge or understanding of something" (20) is the result of knowing the "cause of the item in question" (20). What are the four 'causes' listed by Aristotle?
6. What do you understand by the term 'empiricism'? In what sense is Aristotle an empiricist?
7. How is Aristotle's theory of knowledge different from Plato's?

### Philosophy of Mind and Self:

[See [De Anima](#)]

1. Does thought and emotion originate in the soul or in the body?
2. How does Aristotle conceive of the soul (psyche)?
3. What do you understand by the term 'dualism' in discussion of the relation between the soul and the body? Is Aristotle a dualist?
4. How is Aristotle's theory of the Soul different from Plato's?

### Aesthetics / Literary Theory:

[See [Poetics](#)]

1. What, according to Aristotle, distinguishes art in general from life?
2. How does the medium of representation distinguish literature (what the Greeks called 'poetry') from other forms of art, according to Aristotle?
3. What distinction does Aristotle draw between poetic truth and historical truth?
4. How does the manner of representation distinguish, in turn, one kind of poetry from other kinds of poetry, according to Aristotle? What are the three basic kinds of poetry of which Aristotle speaks?
5. What are the two genres, according to Aristotle, into which the kind of poetry called drama is further divisible? How are these derived from:
  6. the object of representation in question? (Is Aristotle's views on this score very different from Plato's?)
  7. the form of representation?
8. With which of the 'four causes' of a literary work is Aristotle most concerned? Why?

9. What, according to Aristotle, are the six constituent elements of any play?
  10. Which is the most important element?
  11. Which are the two elements that are secondary in importance to this element?
  12. Which are the least important elements?
13. How does Aristotle define 'plot' (mythos)?
14. How does Aristotle define 'character' (ethos)?
15. How does Aristotle define 'thought' (dianoia)?
16. According to Aristotle, does the plot exist in order to convey character or is it the other way around? Why?
17. How does Aristotle define 'tragedy'?
18. What, according to Aristotle, are the seven (7) plot-devices which are most conducive to the emotional effect of pity and fear proper to tragedy?
19. Aristotle is reputed to have also written a treatise on comedy which is now lost to us. Based upon what Aristotle says about tragedy in the Poetics, how would a Neo-Aristotelian seek to define 'comedy' (which is, of course, the opposite of tragedy)?
20. May Aristotle's views on the plot-structure of plays be extended to the study of:
  - narrative poetry (e.g. epic poetry)?
  - prose narrative (e.g. the novel)?
  - lyric poetry?
  - film?
21. How is Aristotle's theory of literature different from Plato's?