



Midterm Sample Questions

1. Compare and contrast the Atomistic ontology given by Leucippus and Democritus with the ontology of Parmenides. What is similar about their conceptions of 'being'? In what ways do these conceptions differ?
2. How might you argue that Heraclitus' concept of fundamental reality derives in part from that of Anaximander?
3. What are the primary differences between the ways in which the Milesian philosophers explained the concepts of permanence and change and the way Empedocles explained these concepts?
4. How would Plato map the Atomistic concept of 'primary' and 'secondary' qualities onto his 'Simile of the Line'?
5. In *Theaetetus*, Plato (via the character of Socrates) asserts that knowledge cannot be merely 'true judgment plus an account.' Show how his argument, via Socrates' dream, might connect with the philosophy of Parmenides. Hint: Use Zeno's arguments as a bridge in your connection of Parmenides to Plato.
6. What is the best way to escape Meno's Paradox? Given that one can escape it, does that mean his argument is totally without merit? Are there aspects of Meno's Paradox that are inescapable? Hint: Consider Socrates' dream in *Theaetetus*.
7. In what ways might Plato's arguments against reductive materialism (the approach of the Milesians, the Atomists, etc) be seen as applicable to the knowledge produced by modern science? How, in other words, might Plato argue that modern 'scientific knowledge' is not necessarily 'knowledge'?