

Socrates asked many questions, but he **RARELY** gave answers. He believed that the wisest people were those who admitted that they knew very little. Only the **deities** were really wise. People who boasted that *they* were wise were just fools.

Socrates loved to show these "wise" men how foolish they were. He would ask them questions that seemed very simple at first. But soon he would set a trap for them...then, their answers would become nonsense, & they would feel very stupid.

Socrates' strategy was to pose many

_____ to the people around him.

Applying past knowledge: Another word for **deity** is _____.

- a. Athenian
- b. god
- c. Spartan
- d. Akhenaten

Drawing conclusions: Why would **Socrates** ask questions *without* giving answers? _____

_____ (2 pts)

Here's how one conversation might have gone...

Socrates: Tell me, if you can. What is courage?
Mar: Easy. A man has courage if he fights against the enemy & does not run away.
Socrates: Very well. Then courage is something very noble. True?
Mar: Very true.
Socrates: Suppose a man does not run away when the enemy is sure to kill him. What would you call that?

Mar: I would call that very foolish.
Socrates: But isn't it also courage?
Mar: Well, I suppose so.
Socrates: Then you are saying that courage is both noble & foolish. How can that be?
Mar: I don't know. You've got me all mixed up! I don't know what I'm saying anymore...

During its Golden Age, Athens respected a man like Socrates. Even though his questions disturbed people, most agreed he was *the* wisest man among them. But the Golden Age ended after Athens went to war with Sparta. Hard times & disorder soon came to the city, & many people believed that Socrates was a dangerous troublemaker. Because of him, they said, men were not loyal to the city or the **deities** (gods.) Socrates was put on trial for "not worshipping the deities & corrupting the young men of the city."

Socrates refused to save his life by saying he was wrong or asking for mercy. Instead, he boldly defended himself. His only crime, he said, was searching for truth & wisdom. The deities themselves had commanded him to do so, he told the jury.

Socrates was found guilty & sentenced to death by drinking poison called **hemlock**. His friends were with him in jail. He advised them to follow the path of life pointed out in the conversations they had together. Then, he calmly drank the cup of poisonous hemlock & agonizingly passed away. Until the very end, he asked them questions.

Though Socrates' questions *bothered* people, **most believed** that he was _____.

- a. very troubled
- b. the most intelligent man of their times
- c. confused
- d. asking questions just to be annoying

Making Inferences: Why was **Socrates** suddenly regarded as a troublemaker? _____

At his trial, Socrates _____.

- a. asked for mercy
- b. boldly defended himself
- c. saved his own life
- d. all the above
- e. only a & b
- f. only b & c

Hemlock is a type of _____.

- a. guilt
- b. aphrodisiac
- c. jail
- d. poison

What, ultimately, happened to Socrates?

- a. He continued to ask questions.
- b. He took poison & died.
- c. He moved from Athens to Sparta.
- d. Friends took him in.

