



Old Western Culture

*A Christian Approach to the Great Books*

Year 1: The Greeks

Unit 4

# The Philosophers

*The Works of Plato and Aristotle*



A ROMAN ROADS MEDIA Video Course

Exam Answer Key

*Please Note: This exam may be periodically updated, expanded, or revised.  
Download the latest revision at [www.RomanRoadsMedia.com](http://www.RomanRoadsMedia.com).*

## NOTES FOR PARENT OR TEACHER

### GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:

- Have the student answer all questions in full sentences.
- Exam should take 45 to 90 minutes. Do not allow more than 2 hours.
- Feel free to allow the student more paper, or to type the answers on a computer.
- This is a closed-book exam. If typing the answers, no Internet access allowed.

### POINT SYSTEM

This exam consists of ten questions, valued at 8–12 points each, for a total of 100 points. Two two extra credit questions are worth 5 points each. If a student answers correctly to all questions, as well as the bonus questions then he or she will have scored 110%. Partial credit (e.g., 5/10 points) may be given if the student correctly answers part of the question, but misses some important elements. Points lost on the main exam can be recouped by answering the bonus questions correctly.

### HOW TO GRADE

Because the exam consists of essay questions, it will be both harder to answer and harder to grade compared to multiple choice exams. However, it allows the student to think through what he has learned in a deeper and more meaningful way and aids in long-term retention and more useful application. For example, you will find that a student who is required to answer essay questions will more easily integrate what he has learned into his general knowledge and able to use it in informal conversation.

Since these are not multiple choice, *answers will vary*. This answer key provides sample correct responses for each question, but it is very possible that a varying answer may still be correct. If you have followed along with the video and interacted with your student throughout the term, you should be able to determine if a certain variation on the answer is a correct one. If you are truly not sure, sit down with your student and figure out the correct answer together. You can also submit questions via “Ask Mr. C” by sending an email to [AskMrC@romanroadsmedia.com](mailto:AskMrC@romanroadsmedia.com). We may respond by email or by a public video response if we feel this is a question many students would benefit in hearing more about.

Also, we purposefully created short and concise answers in this answer key. We expect most student answers to be longer, though this is not a requirement. Many of these questions could be an entire paper topic, and we would encourage students display as much of their knowledge as they can on the paper. This is also why we encourage parents or teacher to allow the student to type out the answers.



## HOW TO STUDY FOR THE TEST

Have your student read through his or her notes from throughout the term as general preparation, as well as study the answers from the daily worksheets. These questions will be familiar to the student who has worked through all questions in their workbook.

## THE A AND B EXAMS

This course includes two exams, designated A and B. Although there is some overlap, most of the questions will be different, but equivalent. These tests may be used in a couple of ways. One way is to use exam A as a practice exam, open or closed book, and exam B as the graded, closed-book exam. Exam B could also be used as a “second chance” exam if exam A didn’t go as well as the student had hoped.

There is flexibility here, and the parent or teacher is free to choose how to use the extra exam.

## “MY STUDENT IS HAVING TROUBLE GETTING 100%!”

This can prove a frustration with essay exams. One thing to watch out for is that there *is* variation in correct answers. Read the “How to Grade” note in the previous page for more information on this.

Another issue is that we have culturally grown accustomed to 100% being the norm for a “good student” and believe that less than 100% indicates a crucial deficiency. But 100% in the classical Latin system is “SCL” (*Summa Cum Laude*), which means “with highest praise.” In the Latin system of grading, SCL is reserved for the student who goes beyond the call of duty, and often even teaches the teacher something. In a system where “good” is 100%, going beyond the call of duty is not incentivized, and good students do not progress. So do not worry if your student gets an 85% —in the Latin system that’s a CH, or *Cum Honore*, with honor —and should be received as such.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, feel free to email us at [questions@romanroadsmedia.com](mailto:questions@romanroadsmedia.com). We love to hear from our parents and teachers, and look forward to serving you in any way possible!



# The Philosophers

## Exam A Answer Key

### ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. What four categories of philosophy does Mr. Callihan mention? Give a brief definition of each. (12 pts.)

The four categories Mr. Callihan mentions are 1) ontology—the study of being,

2) epistemology—the study of knowledge, 3) anthropology—the study of man, and

4) teleology—the study of purpose.

2. In what sense did Socrates claim he was wise? (8 pts.)

Socrates claimed he was the wisest man in Athens because he alone had the humility to admit his ignorance.

3. Why has Gnosticism been such a persistent ideological temptation for Christians through the ages? (12 pts.)

Gnosticism has been a persistent ideological temptation for Christians because it is so easy to see the manifestations of sin that exist in the material world, and we are tempted to blame the material world itself rather than see it as fallen under the curse of sin and in need of redemption.

4. Why does Socrates bring up a city in his discussion of the human soul? (8 pts.)

Socrates uses a hypothetical city as an illustration of the human soul.

5. According to Aristotle, what is wisdom? (12 pts.)

Aristotle says that wisdom is knowledge about certain principles and causes. That is, theoretical knowledge can teach why a thing is and not simply that it is.

6. What is perfect friendship and why is it rare? (12 pts.)

Perfect friendship is the friendship of men who are good and alike in virtue. Such friendship is rare because such men are rare and because developing such a relationship requires time and familiarity.

7. Why does Aristotle say that plot is more important than character in a play? (8 pts.)

Aristotle says that plot is more important than character because it is in our actions that we become who we are. Plot, therefore, is a prerequisite to character development.

8. What does Mr. Callihan say that stories do for us? (8 pts.)

Stories are emotional training for life. Stories train a man how to see and react to things in the world without experiencing them directly.

9. The Apostle Paul quotes pagan authors of his time. What does Mr. Callihan say we should therefore do in our day? (10 pts.)

We must be familiar with our contemporary culture, as Paul was. We must also be familiar with the past since the past is the foundation of our contemporary culture.

10. What is the main thing that Mr. Callihan says the Greeks failed to do as a culture? (10 pts.)

The mistake that the Greeks made was not giving glory to God for the truth, beauty, and goodness that they saw in the world.

## EXTRA CREDIT

11. Though a classical education is not common today, why is it useful to learn from the books of the past? (5 pts.)

Much of modern culture draws on the history of the past, so a man who is familiar with that past will better understand and appreciate the culture he lives in.

12. How can it be a good thing for heresies to arise? (5 pts.)

When heresies arise, they provide the Church with an opportunity to clarify and mature in her doctrine regarding the issues they touch.



# The Philosophers

## Exam B Answer Key

### ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. What four categories of philosophy does Mr. Callihan mention? Give a brief description of each one. (12 pts.)

The four categories Mr. Callihan mentions are 1) ontology—the study of being, 2) epistemology—the study of knowledge, 3) anthropology—the study of man, and 4) teleology—the study of purpose.

2. Why has Gnosticism been such a persistent ideological temptation for Christians through the ages? (12 pts.)

Gnosticism has been a persistent ideological temptation for Christians because it is so easy to see the manifestations of sin that exist in the material world, and we are tempted to blame the material world itself, rather than see it as fallen under the curse of sin and in need of redemption.

3. Why does Aristotle say that plot is more important than character in a play? (8 pts.)

Aristotle says that plot is more important than character because it is in our actions that we become who we are. Plot, therefore, is a prerequisite to character development.

4. In what sense did Socrates claim he was wise? (8 pts.)

Socrates claimed he was the wisest man in Athens because he alone had the humility to admit his ignorance.

5. What is Socrates' first argument for the immortality of the soul? (10 pts.)

The soul brings life to the body, and since the soul will not ever receive the opposite of what it brings, it therefore cannot bring death, the opposite of which is life, therefore the soul is immortal.

6. What is the Christian hope? (Hint: It's not to die and go to heaven forever.) (8 pts.)

The Christian hope is the resurrection of the body.

7. How does Aristotle argue that there must be a "chief good"? (10 pts.)

There must be a chief good above all other goods because otherwise there would be an infinite and empty and vain process of desiring things for the sake of something else.

8. Aristotle says that men cannot be friends with the gods—the distance is too great between them. Scripture says that men can be friends with God. What makes this possible? (12 pts.)

Men can be friends with the God of the Bible because of the incarnation of Jesus. The God of the Bible is the kind of God who can become (and did become) a man, and therefore can relate to us as a friend.

9. What does art, being imitation of real life, allow us to do that we could not otherwise do in real life? (10 pts.)

As an imitation of real life, art frequently allows us to examine a thing and learn from it without the burden of immediate action that real life might demand if you were to actually witness the scene or circumstance yourself.

10. What does Socrates say that a man is really longing for when he sees some form of earthly beauty? (10 pts.)

Socrates says that earthly beauty is a reflection of eternal beauty and so a man's longing when he sees earthly beauty is ultimately a longing for eternal beauty.

## EXTRA CREDIT

11. What reason does Plato give for the material world not being the real world? (5 pts.)

Plato says the material world cannot be real because it changes. For Plato a real world couldn't change.

12. Aristotle says that the final cause of man is happiness. How does he define that happiness? (5 pts.)

Aristotle says that happiness is activity of the soul in accordance with virtue.