

Study questions on Aristotle (Lindberg 47-62)

1. Given a choice between the World of the Forms and the sensible corporeal world, where does Aristotle locate true reality?
2. What is the distinction between matter and form according to Aristotle?
3. Where does the process of acquiring knowledge begin for Aristotle? What is its end product?
4. What problematic aspect of change is the doctrine of potentiality and actuality supposed to address? How does it do this?
5. Given that change is possible (according to the doctrine of potentiality and actuality), how does it actually come about: what aspect of a thing is responsible for motion and change? How does Aristotle's answer influence his investigation of Nature?
6. What are the four different answers ("causes" or "explanatory factors") Aristotle gives to the question, What makes something what it is?
7. Describe the cosmos according to Aristotle: What is it made out of? How is it divided into regions? Is it eternal or does it have a finite age? Can a vacuum exist?
8. Why do earth and water descend toward the center of the cosmos and water and fire ascend toward the periphery?
9. What is the cause of natural motion? What is the cause of forced or violent motion?
10. What is the relation $v \propto F/R$ meant to represent? In what ways is it not a legitimate representation of Aristotle's thought?
11. How is motion in the celestial realm different from motion in the terrestrial realm? What is the cause of motion in the celestial realm?

Study questions on Aristotle (*On the Heavens* and *Metaphysics*)

1. What are the simple movements?
2. How do simple bodies move?
3. Why must there be a simple body that moves by nature in a circle?
4. Why is circular motion necessarily primary to straight motion?
5. Why is the simple body that undergoes circular movement eternal and perfect?
6. Why is the simple body that undergoes circular movement finite?
7. Why is there only one heaven?
8. Why is the heaven spherical?
9. Why must the Earth be at rest at the center of the universe?
10. How many spheres make the heavens go round?