



PLS 1501 Assignment 1 - Western Philosophy exam questions

Western Philosophy (University of South Africa)



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DECLARATION

I LAKHANE MASHALABA DECLARE THAT THIS ASSIGNMENT IS MY OWN WORK AND I
HAVE CORRECTLY AKNOWLEDGED THE WORK OF OTHERS

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INTRODUCTION

Philosophy have been driven by a sense of wonder and curiosity a bout the world in a very long time. Way before in the ancient Greeks to the modern times , philosophers searched for the nature's reality , knowledge and human experience . This short essay will explore into the three aspects of philosophical inquiry , investigating about the nature and source of wonders that drives philosophical thinking , the Socrates method as a tool of questioning and Form of the Good in the famous philosopher Plato . Through the investigation and and study guide this essay will dwell more over these 3 aspects.

.THE NATURE AND SOURCE OF WONDER THAT DRIVES PHILOSOPHICAL THINKING (15 MARKS)

Awe ,curiosity and puzzlement are the feelings of Wonder that drives philosophical thinking. This appeared from encountering the unknown conflict that challenges our minds or our understanding. The wonder sparks the need to learn about the world, question and also explore new ideas , that shall lead to philosophical investigation. This wonder encourage us to review our thought , think critically and seek more answers to questions that we ask our selves , like asking about reality , human experience and nature. The wonders that drives philosophical thinking motivates us into seeking knowledge , understanding and

also wisdom . It makes us more curious that makes us explore and discover information. Wonder can come from everyday experiences . Many philosophers have been driven by wonder in ancient times for example Plato and Aristotle. The source of wonder is different but it comes from experiencing the unknown or unfamiliar .Wonder is the motivator for philosophical thinking , pushing us to tackle the unknown and see clear understanding .

.THE SOCRATIC METHOD (15 MARKS)

The Socrates method that is also known as method of Elenchus was discovered by a great Greek philosopher Socrates .The Socratic method is a method or way of questioning that help individuals to think skeptically and deeply . The purpose of this method is to encourage people to think for themselves than just giving answers . Socrates search for knowledge by asking “what is it” question . Socrates method is ask simple question because it want honest responses from the questioned party. It want to encourage self-examination and uncover hidden assumptions. The simple way of questioning reveal ignorance .It reveal one’s of knowledge .The aim of ambiguity in Socrates is to challenge individuals to think thoroughly so they can give understandable answers and give clear concepts. It foster humility by recognizing the complexity of knowledge , people become humble . The ambiguity encourages discussions, and debate that helps generate

new ideas . Using this method Socrates aim to seek knowledge rather than passing on knowledge .The ambiguity helps understand the world and our place within , also by understanding the nature .

.REASONS WHY PLATO ACCORDS OF THE FORM OT THE GOOD (15 MARKS)

The Form of the Good is given special status because it gives honest reality , truth and knowledge .The Form of Good exceed beyond human understanding and physical world. It have values that create foundation for ethics , morality and also justice . It also provides understanding of other Forms , including Justice . The knowledge of Form of the Good in Plato's philosophy is useful to philosopher-kings to make wise decisions . Plato emphasize the importance of The Form of the Good in his philosophy because it relates to his sub disciplines ethics, metaphysics and epistemology . It has fundamental goals in human existence , it allow one to understand the purpose and meaning of life . It makes it easy to understand true justice and foundation of justice. It present understanding than just having beliefs and opinions.. It want high level of thinking and spirit maturity .In the book "THE REPUBLIC" by Plato the is a story Allegory of the Cave it explain the difficult attaining knowledge of The Form of the Good .

CONCLUSION

In conclusion Socrates method makes me think of true wisdom the Socratic method gives to individuals. In Plato's philosophy we are given chance to reflect on knowledge and understanding and think that it is a lifelong journey .

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