

Apology Questions and Answers

1. ***What are the charges against Socrates?*** Corrupting the young and of not believing in the gods. 28 c (after 24 on the page).
2. ***What is Socrates' strongest defense against the charges?*** I thought that when he brought up how the men will say that Socrates corrupts the young, but is then asked how? Those men will not be able to answer said question, because they simply do not know (28 d). This in a way, showed that some men just have these opinions about him and are saying these things without having any evidence to back it up.
3. ***What is Socrates' weakest defense against the charges?*** I thought that his weakest defense came towards the end, when Socrates explained how even if the men acquitted him under the condition that he does not practice philosophy, Socrates wouldn't obey. He started out good, and then it turned bad and could have been a reason as to why they did not acquit him. In my head, I think the men could have looked at it as Socrates saying, "regardless of what you choose, I'm still going to do what I want," and I don't believe those men appreciated that.
4. ***What do you think of the outcome? The punishment?*** I do not agree with it. Socrates didn't need to die, I understand that he was doing things differently than the majority, and asked questions about things most people didn't, but those things don't deserve death. His sentencing reminded me of our current administration/government and how doing things differently or getting others to think even deeper, can result in jail or death, or simply being ridiculed. Socrates gave a good defense, I liked how he called out Meletus, and even the jury, I wonder why they voted the way they did, and if it had anything to do with the way Socrates presented himself. I wonder if he had been more on the 'wanting to gain sympathy' side of things, or if he begged, and said that he would stop with philosophy, would they have acquitted him?
5. ***What do you think of Socrates? What did you understand or not understand about this dialogue?*** Socrates was slightly annoying, but I liked what he stood by and that he didn't allow anyone to change that about himself. He seemed to have talked a lot, and I get it, he was on trial, but some things felt more like a run on than a plea for his defense. Socrates gave a good speech; I understood most of the things he was saying and what he meant by them. I was a little confused as to how Meletus had the power to suggest death. Was their judicial like ours in a way, where Meletus acted as the prosecutor's officer, and Socrates acted as his own reputation? Or was it simply because Meletus brought forward the charges, so he could request this type of punishment as well?