

Name _____

Apology by Plato

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The charges against Socrates in "Apology" revolved around impiety and corrupting the youth of Athens. In his defense, he argued that he had not actively disrespected the gods but rather engaged in a search for true wisdom. He claimed that his mission was to encourage critical thinking and self-examination among the youth, ultimately benefiting the city by promoting virtue and moral improvement.
2. The Socratic method is a form of cooperative argumentative dialogue where Socrates asks a series of questions to expose inconsistencies in his interlocutors' beliefs. An example from "Apology" is Socrates' questioning of Meletus, one of his accusers, about whether he intentionally corrupts the youth.
3. Irony in "Apology" is a tool used by Socrates to challenge conventional wisdom and highlight the paradox of wisdom and ignorance. His ironic claim of ignorance underscores the idea that true wisdom lies in recognizing the limits of one's knowledge and continually seeking understanding.
4. Socrates' acceptance of his death sentence reflects his unwavering commitment to his philosophical principles. He views death either as a peaceful, dreamless sleep or as an opportunity to continue his philosophical pursuits in the afterlife. This acceptance underscores his belief in the value of philosophy and his indifference to worldly concerns such as fear of death.

