



Greek Philosophy: Aristotle [PY3120] (Prerequisite: PY1085)

Introductory reading

Lear, J. Aristotle and the Desire to Understand. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988).

Akrill, J.L. (ed.) A New Aristotle Reader. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987).

Sample examination questions

1. What, for Aristotle, is a 'category'?
2. Has Aristotle's doctrine of categories any relevance to the Third Man Argument?
3. Does Aristotle believe that Socrates and Callias have the same form?
4. Explain and assess Aristotle's account of being.
5. In the Categories Coriscus is a primary substance; man, a secondary substance. Explain this view and its development in Aristotle's later works.
6. Is Aristotle committed to the existence of featureless prime matter?
7. What would Aristotle say about the claim that either everything is determined, or some things happen without a cause?
8. Discuss Aristotle's treatment of infinite quantities and magnitudes, especially with respect to the size and duration of the universe. Are there any inconsistencies here?
9. Does Aristotle give a good case for a teleological account of nature?
10. Is Aristotle's account of the soul consistent?
11. 'All teaching and all intellectual learning come from pre-existing knowledge.' (Posterior Analytics I.) Does Aristotle succeed in defending this claim?