

JUNIOR ENGLISH

# SUMMER READING 2017

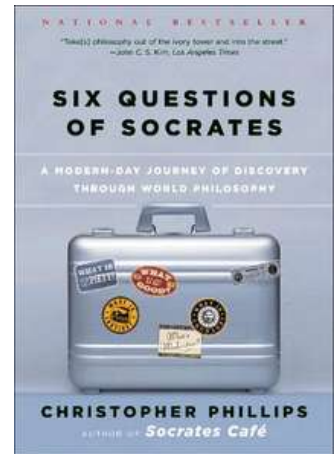
AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE & COMPOSITION

Read *Six Questions of Socrates* by Christopher Phillips.

A. Answer the question below **using a list**.

Phillips and the people with whom he meets discuss a variety of significant historical and cultural events. **What are events that you had not previously heard about? Please star those events that most interested you.**

B. **Choose one** of the questions on the next sheet to answer in a paragraph. I will reward responses that illustrate an **understanding** of the ideas presented in the book and that offer **thoughtful and thorough** discussions containing **specific, illustrative detail** to support the opinions.



## 1. "What Is Virtue?"

What seems to be Phillips' definition of virtue? How can you tell? Do you agree or disagree with his opinion? Why or why not? What is your definition of virtue? What would need to happen before virtue, as you define it, would exist? Discuss situations in which you have seen your definition of virtue working in real life. If you can think of no such examples, why?

## 2. "What Is Moderation?"

What does Phillips have to say about the desirability of moderation as opposed to immoderation? What is your opinion on this subject, and how did you form it? What circumstances, observations or experiences have led you to this opinion?

**3. “What Is Justice?”**

Summarize the various answers people in this section of the book have to the question “Can justice ever be achieved when an injustice has been committed?” Think of a current example of a local, national, or international injustice (not discussed in the book). Briefly describe the situation and explain what would be necessary for justice to be achieved in that situation.

**4. “What Is Good?”**

Choose and paraphrase the ideas of ONE of the following: Buddha, Voltaire, John Connolly or J.R.R. Tolkien (as presented though the discussion on *The Lord of the Rings*). How does this perspective agree with or fit with your own vision of a person’s responsibility as a steward of the earth and its inhabitants?

**5. “What Is Courage?”**

Which of the four discussion groups’ ideas about courage do you feel most akin to? (Native Americans, Japanese school children, the mentally ill, the New Jersey group). In your answer, explain what the group’s idea(s) is (are) and why you feel most connected to it (them). Have you ever had to put this (these) idea(s) into practice? Explain.

**6. “What Is Piety?”**

What does Phillips mean when he calls for “a deeper conversion of character”? What argument does he make about this subject? Do you agree or disagree? Why or why not? Give specific real life examples to support your claim.