**Socrates**

A. Socratic method

1. Starts conversation

2. Isolates key term, asks "What is X"

3. Asks for help defining X

4. Asks for clarification

5. Shows definition to be inadequate

6. Repeats process until it becomes evident the “victim” doesn’t know what he’s talking

B. Knowing and doing

1. Socrates said that to know the good is to do the good. No one chooses to do evil

knowingly.

2. When people do wrong they often do so out of a misplaced idea of what is good.

Example: Willie Sutton the bank robber. Why do you rob banks, Willie? Because that’s where the money is.

3. Knowledge isn’t just possessing the information. It is more like wisdom. What is

involved in knowing that smoking causes cancer. You can read on every pack of

smokes that it does. But if you really knew what you were doing to yourself would you

smoke?

C. Political philosophy

1. Social contract theory- Socrates refuses to run away from Athens when convicted and

sentenced to death because he has agreed his receiving the benefits of society

means he should accept the penalties it metes out.

2. Natural law theory- There is a universal moral law that can be known through reason

and experience, not by governments. Governments are just as long as their laws

conform to the natural law