Plato’s *Apology*

I. The First Accusations (502-510)

A. Who are the “first accusers” and what are the “first accusations”? (503-504)

B. How does Socrates answer these accusations?

C. What is the wisdom Socrates denies he has on p. 506?

D. What is the significance of the story of the oracle from Delphi?

E. Why does Socrates believe himself wiser than the statesmen, poets and craftsmen? What is the wisdom Socrates claims to have?

II. The Formal Accusations and the Examination of Meletus (510-524)

A. What are the formal accusations Socrates is being tried on?

B. How does Socrates attempt to answer these accusations in his arguments with Meletus? There are three arguments ...
   1. ... about the law and who makes the young better ... (510-512)
   2. ... about whether Socrates could deliberately make the young worse ... (512-513)
   3. ... about whether Socrates believes in no gods or other gods ... (513-515)
   4. Are these arguments valid? Do they make their point? Do they show Socrates to be innocent of the charges? How or how not?

C. How is Socrates like a “gadfly” and the state like a big, sleepy horse? (518) Does the political community need someone like Socrates? What good does someone like Socrates bring to a political community?

III. The Verdict (524-531)

A. What does Socrates propose as a penalty when he is found guilty? Why does he believe that is a just penalty?

B. Why does Socrates claim that “life without enquiry is not worth living” (526)? What do you think?

C. What is Socrates’s attitude toward death? Why does it not bother him?