

ARISTOTLE

Study Questions

*Metaphysics* I 1-4 & 6; *Physics* II 3:

- 1) How does Aristotle distinguish between opinion, on the one hand, and knowledge or science, on the other?
- 2) What explanatory principles does Aristotle use to understand and classify the views of earlier philosophers?

*Physics* I 1 & 7-8:

- 3) What particular problem or difficulty does Aristotle see in explaining the possibility of change? How does his account avoid this difficulty?

*Physics* II 1-2:

- 4) What, according to Aristotle, is the difference between natural and artificial substances?
- 5) What is the connection between the four causes and the understanding of nature?

*Metaphysics* IV 1-2; VII 1-3, 16-17:

- 6) What does Aristotle mean by the expression 'being insofar as it is being'? How does the study of being insofar as it is being distinguish metaphysics from all other sciences?
- 7) What criteria does Aristotle use to decide what sorts of things are the most fundamental kinds of beings?
- 8) What sorts of things does Aristotle consider as possible candidates to be substances? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each?

*Metaphysics* XII 6-7:

- 9) What kind of evidence and what general principles does Aristotle use in investigating the nature and existence of God?