Plato Short Answer Questions

1. Why don’t we know Plato’s exact birth date?

2. Define “philosophy.”

3. What is a democracy?

4. Why was Socrates brought to trial, and eventually sentenced to death?

5. What did Plato and others try to do to stop their friend and teacher from being killed?

6. If you were Plato, how do you think seeing someone important to you unfairly sentenced to death would make you view the government?

7. Carefully re-read Plato’s statement: “Either true and genuine philosophers attain political power or the rulers of states by some dispensation of providence become genuine philosophers.” Explain this phrase in everyday English.

8. Why did Plato open his own university?

9. Where does our word “academics” come from?

10. Using the internet or a book, give an example of one of Plato’s famous quotes, along with one or two sentences about what you think it means.