*Apology*

In Plato's Apology Socrates, is charged with committing four offenses, being a Physicist, a Sophist, not believing in the gods of Athens, and corrupting the young, and must defend himself of these charges. At the time Physicist were forms of a scientist that discredited most of the ideas about the gods and wanted to pursue scientific or natural explanations for rarities. Sophists were paid instructors who traveled from Greek city-state to city-state teaching the young. Greece’s legal system was composed of jurors, and had both a prosecutor and defense to make a case. The jury of Athens sentenced one of their greatest philosophers to death, a man who dedicated his life to reflect on questions as the nature of god and many other ideas of Greek life. Now it is my turn to decide the verdict of this case.

The trial opens with “you have felt, O men of Athens, at hearing the speeches of my accusers, I cannot tell; but I know that their persuasive words almost made me forget who I was - such was the effect of them; and yet they have hardly spoken a word of truth.” First let’s start with the charge of Socrates being a Physicist. In the apology He is described as “A wise man, who speculated about the heaven above, and searched into the earth beneath, and made the worse appear the better cause.” Socrates defends with the question of “Which is better, to live among bad citizens, or among good ones? Answer, friend, I say; for that is a question which may be easily answered. Do not the good do their neighbors good, and the bad do them evil?” Socrates wasn’t evil he just searched for physical explanations of things not just spiritual which is why he was accused of being a physicist. My verdict for this charge is not guilty considering that Socrates is a natural philosopher who just had questions he wanted to find answers for.

In his other accusation, he was accused of being a Sophist. Socrates says that “What I did couldn’t be interoperated as a sophist for what I did was not a profession but was my personal choice” Socrates based his defense that he wasn’t a sophist “As little foundation is there for the report that I am a teacher, and take money; that is no more true than the other. Although, if a man is able to teach, I honor him for being paid” on the fact that he was in poverty and sophist are known for that time to be very wealthy and proved that by saying peers made fun of him because he dressed in the same tattered woolen cloak, never wore any shoes, and had never stepped out of the Greece. My verdict for this charge is not guilty only because a sophist was well paid and Socrates proved to be in poverty and had never left Greece which is unlike a sophist to not travel.

Socrates was also accused of not believing in the gods of Athens. “Did ever any man believe in horsemanship, and not in horses? Or in flute-playing, and not in flute-players? No, my friend; I will answer to you and to the court, as you refuse to answer for yourself. There is no man who ever did. But now please to answer the next question: Can a man believe in spiritual and divine agencies, and not in spirits or demigods?” “But I observed that even the good artisans fell into the same error as the poets; because they were good workmen they thought that they also knew all sorts of high matters, and this defect in them overshadowed their wisdom - therefore I asked myself on behalf of the oracle, whether I would like to be as I was, neither having their knowledge nor their ignorance, or like them in both; and I made answer to myself and the oracle that I was better off as I was.” Socrates defense against the accusation of not believing in the gods is saying that he really does believe in the gods, but just challenges their adequacy, and goes on to challenge the prosecutor by stating that he cannot believe in divine things and at the same time divine things. My verdict for this charge is not guilty due to the fact that I find thinking to be important and that to form your own ideas is healthy for your brain and important for a diverse civilization.

His charge of being a corrupter of the youths is an after effect of the other charges against Socrates. Socrates ways of corrupting the youth are described as “young men of the richer classes, who have not much to do, come about you of their own accord; they like to hear the pretenders examined, and they often imitate you, and examine others themselves; there are plenty of persons, as they soon enough discover, who think that they know something, but really know little or nothing: and then those who are examined by them instead of being angry with themselves are angry with you”. As Socrates defense he asks this question “And when you accuse me of corrupting and deteriorating the youth, do you allege that I corrupt them intentionally or unintentionally?” What Socrates is saying is that he did not teach the youth, but that he only allowed them to listen to what he spoke. What was spoken by Socrates was not to accept things as they are but to question which is why he is accused of corrupting the youths because e at the time this was unacceptable. My verdict for this charge is not guilty for the reason that Socrates was unaware that he was teaching and assumed that he was only speaking freely.

To conclude Plato's Apology ends with the final words of Socrates after being sentenced to death after being found guilty “The hour of departure has arrived, and we go our ways - I to die, and you to live. Which is better God only knows.” Based on the examination of each of Socrates’ responses to the charges of being a Physicist, a Sophist, not believing in the gods of Athens, and corrupting the young. If I were too decided for the court of the outcome of the trial I would have acquitted Socrates of all the accusations against him.