

Unit 13 - Classwork 1: The *Republic* (Book VI)

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In order to answer the following questions, read Book 6 of Plato's *Republic* (Πολιτεία) on pages 5—10 in Unit 13.

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1. The Ideal Form of the Good -

- (i) From reading Plato's *Parmenides* dialogue, remember the theory of ideal forms (from pages 16—26 in Unit 10).
 - (a) According to Socrates, if redness is the ideal form of the red, then anything that participates in that ideal form is *what*?
 - (b) According to Socrates, if greatness is the ideal form of the great, then anything that participates in that ideal form is *what*?
 - (c) According to Socrates, if beauty is the ideal form of the beautiful, then anything that participates in that ideal form is *what*?
 - (d) According to Socrates, if justice is the ideal form of the just, then anything that participates in that ideal form is *what*?
 - (e) According to Socrates, if goodness is the ideal form of the good, then anything that participates in that ideal form is *what*?

(ii) According to Socrates, what's so *good* about understanding what the good *is*?

(iii) According to Socrates, what's so *bad* about *misunderstanding* what the good is?

(iv) According to Socrates, what should a political guardian know about the ideal form of the good?

2. The Analogy of the Sun -

- (i) Adeimantus wanted to know what the ideal form of the good is, and his brother Glaucon pressed Socrates to say what goodness is. Yet even so, Socrates was unwilling to speak directly about the ideal form of the good. Instead, he was only willing to speak indirectly about it by speaking about *the child of the good*. Yet in order to do so, he made an analogy between the *sun* and the *good*. According to him, the relationship between the *good* and its child is like the relationship between the *sun* and its child.

(a) According to Socrates, what are the children of the sun?

(b) According to Socrates, what are the children of the good?

(ii) According to Socrates, what does essence have to do with the good?

(iii) According to Socrates, what does knowledge have to do with essence?

(iv) Why did Socrates think that the ideal form of the good is something *unknowable*?

3. The Divided Line & Ontology -

- (i) With his divided line, Socrates first divided reality into two unequal parts:
material reality and *immaterial* reality.
 - (a) According to Socrates, which part of reality is *above* the divided line?
 - (b) According to Socrates, which part of reality is *below* the divided line?
- (ii) After dividing reality into two unequal parts, Socrates then divided *material* reality into two unequal parts.
 - (a) According to Socrates, what kinds of material things are in the part of material reality that is *above* the divided line?
 - (b) According to Socrates, what kinds of material things are in the part of material reality that is *below* the divided line?
- (iii) Like how he divided *material* reality into two unequal parts, Socrates divided *immaterial* reality into two unequal parts.
 - (a) According to Socrates, what kinds of immaterial things are in the part of material reality that is *below* the divided line?
 - (b) According to Socrates, what kinds of immaterial things are in the part of material reality that is *above* the divided line?

(iv) According to Socrates, which kinds of *immaterial* things have the most existence?

(v) According to Socrates, which kinds of *immaterial* things have the least existence?

(vi) According to Socrates, which kinds of *material* things have the most existence?

(vii) According to Socrates, which kinds of *material* things have the least existence?

(viii) According to Socrates, which kinds of things have the most existence:
material things or *immaterial* things?

4. The Divided Line & Epistemology -

(i) Knowledge (Ἐπιστήμη) -

(a) According to Socrates, knowledge pertains to which part of reality?

(b) According to Socrates, what are the two kinds of knowledge?

(c) According to Socrates, which kind of knowledge is knowledge of mathematical concepts?

(d) According to Socrates, which kind of knowledge is knowledge of the ideal forms?

(ii) Opinion (Δόξα) -

- (a) According to Socrates, opinion pertains to which part of reality?
- (b) According to Socrates, what are the two kinds of opinion?
- (c) According to Socrates, which kind of knowledge is knowledge of *bodies*?
According to him, what kind of knowledge is knowledge of *corporeal* things?
- (d) According to Socrates, which kind of knowledge is knowledge of reflections, shadows, and/or illusions?

(iii) On page 6 of Unit 13, consider how Socrates described the difference between knowledge (ἐπιστήμη) and opinion (δόξα).

- (a) According to Socrates, what is the weakest kind of opinion?
- (b) According to Socrates, what is the strongest kind of opinion?
- (c) According to Socrates, what is the weakest kind of knowledge?
- (d) According to Socrates, what is the strongest kind of knowledge?

5. According to Socrates, if the soul can choose between knowledge and opinion, then which should the soul choose?