

Chapter 14 - Assignment 2: The *Republic* (Book VI) – [2]

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In order to answer the following questions, read Book 6 of Plato's *Republic* (Πολιτεία) on pages 6–10 in Chapter 14.

1. According to Socrates, how is the *ideal form* of the good a *final* good?

2. By comparing the *good* to the *sun*, Socrates made the Analogy of the Sun.

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

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

3. Socrates used his theory of the good to explain essence [or *ousia* (οὐσία)].

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

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

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

4. Socrates proposed his Divided Line theory.
 - (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) Socrates then divided *material* reality into two unequal parts.
 - (a) According to Socrates, what kinds of material things are in the *upper* part of material reality?
 - (b) According to Socrates, what kinds of material things are in the *lower* part of material reality?
 - (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 *upper* part of immaterial reality?
 - (b) According to Socrates, what kinds of immaterial things are in the *lower* part of immaterial reality?
 - (iv) According to Socrates, what are the *most* real things of all?
 - (v) According to Socrates, what are the *least* real things of all?

5. 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) Belief (Δόξα) -

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