

### Reading Questions: Plato, *Republic*

1. What is justice according to Thrasymachus? Is this a coherent idea of justice?
2. Is it to our advantage to be just according to Socrates? What kind of good does he claim justice is?
3. What is the origin of justice according to Glaucon?
4. What does Adeimantus challenge Socrates to tell them?
5. How does Socrates propose to explain what justice is?
6. Why does Socrates think it's important to censor the stories that are told in the kallipolis?
7. What is a noble lie? What is its purpose?
8. What practice in the kallipolis ultimately guarantees that everyone calls "mine" and "not mine" in unison? Why is this important and what value or ideal does it serve?
9. How does Socrates divide the soul? What are its parts? What sorts of appetite is the appetitive part of the soul subject to?
10. What is the correct ordering of the soul's parts according to Socrates? What does such a correct ordering constitute?
11. What does the allegory of the cave describe? Can you think of examples of the allegory outside the text?
12. What forms of constitution does the kallipolis decline into and in what order?
13. How does Socrates describe democracy? Is this an accurate description of democracy as we know it today?
14. Why does Socrates see democracy as the second-worst type of constitution? What is wrong with democracy, or with the democratic man? Why is it better than tyranny?
15. Who lives the worst and most miserable life according to Socrates and what makes it so miserable? Does this convince you that justice is worth having for its own sake and apart from its good consequences?
16. What positive consequences of justice does Socrates discuss in Book X?
17. Why does Socrates think the soul must be immortal?