

**POLSC201**  
**Unit 1 (Subunit 1.1.3) Quiz**  
**“Plato’s *Republic*”**

**Summary**

Plato’s greatest and most enduring work was his lengthy dialogue, *The Republic*. This dialogue has often been regarded as Plato’s blueprint for a future society of perfection. The main argument of *The Republic* is partly a response to the political unrest and instability Plato witnessed in contemporary Athenian society. Plato developed a perspective that viewed all contemporary forms of government as corrupt, theorizing that the only hope for finding true justice both for society and the individual lies in philosophy and that “the human race will have no respite from evils until those who are really philosophers acquire political power or until, through some divine dispensation, those who rule and have political authority in the cities become real philosophers” (*The Republic*, pp. 326a–326b). This is the central theme of *The Republic*. In the context of this premise, Plato touches upon several major issues, focusing the most significant discussions on the nature and definition of ethics, education, and the organization of society and politics, as well as religion and philosophy.

**Related Readings:**

1.1 Citizens, Philosophers, and Kings

Reading: Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s version of Benjamin Jowett’s translation of Plato’s [“The Republic”](#)

1.1.3 Logic for Philosopher-Kings

YouTube: Yale University: Professor Steven Smith’s Lecture [Philosophers and Kings: Plato, Republic, I–II](#) (YouTube); [Philosophers and Kings: Plato, Republic, III–IV](#) (YouTube); and [Philosophers and Kings: Plato, Republic, V](#) (YouTube)

**Instructions:**

Please complete the multiple choice quiz below on key themes found in “The Republic.” Compare your answers to the Answer Key.

**Quiz**  
**“Plato’s *Republic*”**

1. What is Plato’s aim in *The Republic*?
  - A. To define justice
  - B. To prove that justice is worthwhile to pursue for its own sake
  - C. To prove that justice is the advantage of the stronger?
  - D. To define justice and to prove that it is worthwhile to pursue for its own sake
  
2. Which of Socrates’ interlocutors asserts that justice is nothing but the advantage of the stronger?
  - A. Adeimantus
  - B. Thrasymachus
  - C. Glaucon
  - D. Polemarchus
  
3. Which of the following terms best describes Thrasymachus?
  - A. Platonist
  - B. Pre-Socratic
  - C. Sophist
  - D. Politician
  
4. What advantage does the Ring of Gyges confer on its wearers?
  - A. It makes them invisible
  - B. It makes them invincible
  - C. It makes them maximally just
  - D. It makes everything they touch turn to gold
  
5. According to Glaucon, to which of the following classes do the majority of people relegate justice?
  - A. Goods that are only desired for their own sake
  - B. Goods that are only desired for their consequences
  - C. Goods that are desired both for their own sake and for their consequences
  - D. Goods that are not desired at all
  
6. According to Socrates, what is the fundamental principle on which all human society should be based?
  - A. The principle of specialization
  - B. From each according to his ability, to each according to his need
  - C. Moderation
  - D. Love of honor

7. Which of the following is not a term applied to the first city Socrates describes?

- A. Healthy city
- B. Luxurious city
- C. City of pigs
- D. City of necessary desires

8. Which of the following classes of society populates the first city?

- A. Producers
- B. Auxiliaries
- C. Philosopher-kings
- D. All of the above

9. Which of the following is not considered an important aspect of the warriors' education?

- A. Poetry
- B. Music
- C. Physical training
- D. Dialectic

10. What is the aim of the warriors' education?

- A. To make them maximally fierce
- B. To make them maximally philosophical
- C. To make them maximally honor-loving
- D. To strike the delicate balance between brutishness and gentle qualities

11. Which of the following is not considered an aspect of the soul by Plato?

- A. The appetitive part
- B. The spirited part
- C. The rational part
- D. The emotive part

12. Which of the following statements is false?

- A. Justice on the individual level precisely parallels justice on the societal level
- B. In a just individual, the entire soul is one big rational part
- C. The guiding principle behind justice is harmony
- D. In a just individual, the entire soul aims at fulfilling the desires of the rational part

13. Which of the following is not a characteristic that marks the lifestyle of the guardians?

- A. They own no private property
- B. They only mate several times a year
- C. They are celibate

D. They do not know which children are their own

14. What is the main purpose in propagating the myth of the metals among the citizens of the just city?

A. To ensure that they all agree on who should rule

B. To ensure that the rulers do not seek wealth

C. To ensure that all citizens view one another as relatives

D. To ensure that the warriors would rather die than allow their city to fall into enemy hands

15. What is the role of women in the city?

A. They are limited to the producing class

B. They belong to their own class of society

C. The role of women is never mentioned in *The Republic*

D. Women occupy all of the same roles that men occupy

16. What distinguishes the lover of sights and sounds from the philosopher?

A. He does not recognize the forms

B. He is concerned only with beauty and not with the good

C. Though he recognizes that there are forms, he cannot manage to connect these to what he sees around him in the sensible world

D. He fails to recognize that everything that is beautiful is also ugly

17. According to Socrates, what is the ultimate subject of study for the philosopher-kings?

A. Mathematics

B. Dialectic

C. The Form of the Good

D. The Form of the Beautiful

18. To which of the following does Socrates compare the Form of the Good?

A. A line

B. The sun

C. A cave

D. A fire

19. According to Socrates, what is the lowest grade of cognitive activity?

A. Imagination

B. Belief

C. Thought

D. Confusion

20. What is the difference between thought and understanding?

A. Understanding makes use of images and hypotheses as crutches, whereas thought does not

B. Understanding reasons about Forms, whereas thought does not

- C. Thought makes use of images and hypotheses as crutches, whereas understanding does not
- D. Thought reasons about Forms, whereas understanding does not

21. What does Socrates mean to illustrate with the allegory of the cave?

- A. The effects of education on the soul
- B. The effects of the intelligible realm on the soul
- C. The effects of the visible realm on the soul
- D. The stages of moral development through which a philosopher-king must pass

22. At what age does a guardian finally become a philosopher-king, provided that he passes through all of the various tests?

- A. 30
- B. 40
- C. 50
- D. 60

23. Why is the philosopher-king most fit to rule the city?

- A. Because only he has knowledge
- B. Because he is the most just of all
- C. Because only he does not want to rule
- D. All of the above

24. Which of the following statements best approximates Socrates' attitude toward democracy?

- A. It is the most ideal form of government in theory but can never work in practice
- B. It is the ideal form of government and should be instituted
- C. It is an anarchic and disordered form of government, second only to tyranny in its wretchedness
- D. It is the most wretched form of government

25. How do we know that the philosopher's pleasure is the greatest possible pleasure?

- A. Because only he is in a position to judge and he says so
- B. Because this coheres with our theory of justice
- C. Because if it weren't, then it would not be worthwhile to be just and we know that it is
- D. Because of the myth of Er