

**Plato – Republic – Reading Questions**

1. What 2 themes is Book I concerned with?
2. Why did Socrates go to the home of Polemarchos and Cephalos?
3. Why does Socrates enjoy talking to older people?
4. How does Cephalos describe old age?
5. Why does Cephalos think that old age is troublesome?
6. What does Cephalos think is the benefit of money?
7. What definition of justice does Socrates infer from Cephalos' view?
8. Why does Socrates suggest that this is not a good definition of justice? (What method of argument does Socrates use?)
9. What would be some contemporary examples of the same point?
10. What makes a definition a *good* definition?
11. Why does Polemarchos take up the discussion?
12. What is Polemarchos' definition? (Where does he get this definition from?)
13. What is Socrates's first response?
14. What is Polemarchos' explanation?
15. What questions / analogies does Socrates raise in response?
16. What point are these analogies supposed to show? justice is a matter of doing
17. On Polemarchos' view, when is justice useful?
18. What leads S to suggest that, if Polemarchos is right, then justice is USELESS?
19. Socrates lists a number of analogies – to the boxer, the physician, the soldier, etc. What point is Socrates trying to establish about the nature of justice?
20. Polemarchos insists that 'justice' is to help our friends. What does he understand by 'friends' and 'enemies'?
21. How does this change the definition of justice?
22. What objection does Socrates make to this revised definition?
23. What is Polemarchos's response?
24. Socrates raises a question: Should a just person harm anyone at all? How does S show Polemarchos that a just person should not? What analogies does he use? What argument form does he employ?
25. When Socrates is asking what justice DOES, what assumption is he making about the nature of justice?]
26. What is the reaction of Thrasymachos? What does he ask S. to do?
27. What is Socrates's response?
28. How does this show Socratic irony?
29. What is Thrasymachos' definition?
30. What is Socrates's first response? What is Socrates's first question?

31. WHO does Thrasymachos say is the stronger?
32. What Socrates does here is show that this definition leads to problems--in fact, it contradicts itself. So, suppose (T's definition) that JUSTICE is the advantage of the rulers. How does Socrates show that it leads to a contradiction?
33. According to Thrasymachos are rulers always right?.
34. What is Thrasymachos' revised view about what a 'ruler' is? What analogies does he use to defend his claim?
35. What does Socrates say is the purpose of an activity (or a craft)? What illustrations does he use? How does this show a problem in Thrasymachos' account?
36. What is Thrasymachos's 'second' definition?
37. What do the examples of shepherds and cowherds show about rulers?
38. How does this affect the definition of justice?
39. How does Thrasymachos show that injustice is more powerful AND profitable than justice?
40. Why do some people give injustice a bad name?