

Western Political

Unit 01:

The Polis

Author: Saylor Foundation

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1. Unit 01: The Polis

4. Chapter: Unit 01: The Polis

1. Unit 01: The Polis Questions

4.1.1. According to Socrates, philosopher-kings have the legitimate author...

Author: Saylor Foundation

According to Socrates, philosopher-kings have the legitimate authority to rule because of

Please choose only one answer:

- their knowledge of mathematics.
- their understanding of the Form of the Beautiful.
- their experience in making arguments and persuasion.
- their understanding of the Form of the Good.

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4.1.2. According to Socrates, what is the fundamental principle on which a...

Author: Saylor Foundation

According to Socrates, what is the fundamental principle on which all human society should be based?

Please choose only one answer:

- Duty to the city-state
- Appeasement of the gods through sacrifice and virtuous action
- The principle of specialization
- Charity to one's neighbors

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4.1.3. Aristotle argues that the highest good to which we should aim can o...

Author: Saylor Foundation

Aristotle argues that the highest good to which we should aim can only be the highest good if it is

Please choose only one answer:

- pleasing to the gods.
- acceptable to all fellow citizens.
- tangible yet unchanging over time.
- something for its own sake, and not a means to some other end.

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4.1.4. Aristotle thinks that aristocracy based in virtue is superior to ot...

Author: Saylor Foundation

Aristotle thinks that aristocracy based in virtue is superior to other forms of government, such as oligarchy or democracy. Which of the following reasons is false as to why he thinks this?

Please choose only one answer:

- Democrats mistakenly think of equal citizenship as the ground of worth, without regard to specialization or virtue.
- Democrats mistakenly believe that the end of the state is freedom, and they identify the best life with the life of freedom to satisfy one's desires.
- Oligarchs think that wealth—a characteristic in terms of which citizens are unequal—is the ground of worth. They think so because they mistakenly think the end of the state is to accumulate wealth and property, and they mistakenly identify the best life with the possession of these external goods.
- Aristocrats are only capable of recognizing and understanding what is excellent and fine because of inborn talents and abilities passed from one generation to the next.

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4.1.5. How does Socrates understand and explain the statement from the Ora...

Author: Saylor Foundation

How does Socrates understand and explain the statement from the Oracle of Delphi that he, Socrates, is the wisest person in the world?

Please choose only one answer:

- The Oracle has been able to understand arguments made by Socrates, while the citizens of Athens are not able.
- The Oracle has been able to listen to all of Socrates's encounters with the citizens of Athens, and Socrates has shown himself to be the most wise among them.
- The Oracle must have meant that because he, Socrates, knows that human wisdom is of little or no value, he is therefore the most wise.
- The Oracle has been privy to the nefarious intent of Meletus's false accusations, and decided to intervene on behalf of Socrates for the sake of justice.

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4.1.6. In contrast to Plato's Forms and his emphasis on the importance of ...

Author: Saylor Foundation

In contrast to Plato's Forms and his emphasis on the importance of coming to understand the Form of the Good, Aristotle defines the highest end to which we should aim as:

Please choose only one answer:

- Well-being attained through a life of action on the part of the soul that has reason.
- The realization and application of one's natural talents and abilities for the glory of the gods and the city-state.
- The safety, security, and prosperity of loved ones and family.
- Leisurely pleasures enjoyed after hard work and sacrifice.

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4.1.7. In Plato's Apology why is Socrates on trial?

Author: Saylor Foundation

In Plato's Apology why is Socrates on trial?

Please choose only one answer:

- For making libelous statements about prominent citizens of Athens
- For corrupting the youth of Athens and believing in false gods
- For not fulfilling his public duties as a citizen of Athens
- Treason

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4.1.8. In the Apology, for people to be genuinely just, they must lead

Author: Saylor Foundation

In the Apology, for people to be genuinely just, they must lead

Please choose only one answer:

- a political life, fully engaged with the day-to-day issues of the polis.
- a private life of contemplation in pursuit of self-perfection.
- a mixture of a private and a public life, intervening in public affairs only where and when it is absolutely necessary.
- a mixture of a private and public life, taking time away, when public commitments and responsibilities allow for leisure, to pursue the virtues of contemplation and self-perfection.

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4.1.9. In the Crito, Socrates argues that:

Author: Saylor Foundation

In the Crito, Socrates argues that:

Please choose only one answer:

- The laws and customs of Athens as administered take precedence over individual conscience.
- Because he has been unjustly charged and convicted, he welcomes death because justice can only exist in the underworld.
- Because he has been unjustly charged and convicted, his execution will solidify his argument made in the Apology that justice can only be realized by living a private life of contemplation.
- His execution will eventually cause the citizens of Athens to feel guilty for what they have done, and will ensure that his arguments and legacy endure.

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4.1.10. In The Republic, Socrates attempts to define justice as a virtue of...

Author: Saylor Foundation

In The Republic, Socrates attempts to define justice as a virtue of a human being through first defining justice as a virtue of a city. Which of the following is false?

Please choose only one answer:

- Justice at the level of the individual precisely parallels justice at the level of society.
- The guiding principle behind justice, both in the individual and in society, is harmony.
- In a just individual, the soul becomes entirely rational.
- In a just individual, the entire soul aims at fulfilling the desires originating from its rational part.

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4.1.11. What is the role of women as described in the ideal city?

Author: Saylor Foundation

What is the role of women as described in the ideal city?

Please choose only one answer:

- They are limited to the producing class.
- They belong to their own class of society.
- The role of women is never mentioned in The Republic.
- Women occupy the same roles that men occupy.

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4.1.12. When Socrates engages various citizens of Athens in conversation, h...

Author: Saylor Foundation

When Socrates engages various citizens of Athens in conversation, his goal is to:

Please choose only one answer:

- Prove them wrong by making a better argument.
- Make people aware of their ignorance by prompting them to examine their premises and beliefs.
- Educate people by patiently showing them the right ANSWER to a question.
- Embarrass people for their arrogance and reveal them for what they truly are.

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4.1.13. Which of the following statements best approximates Socrates's atti...

Author: Saylor Foundation

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

Please choose only one answer:

- It is the most ideal form of government in theory, but can never work in practice.
- It is the most ideal form of government in theory, and should be instituted as best as possible in practice.
- It is an anarchic and disordered form of government, second only to tyranny in its wretchedness.
- It is the most wretched form of government, given that tyranny can at least be effectual.

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4.1.14. Why does Aristotle place such heavy emphasis on virtue at the perso...

Author: Saylor Foundation

Why does Aristotle place such heavy emphasis on virtue at the personal level after stating that his purpose is to find the highest good for which virtuous action is undertaken, and that the science concerned with this good is political science?

Please choose only one answer:

- For Aristotle, virtue at the personal level and in politics are not distinct spheres. There is but one sphere—politics conceived in ethical terms—so he begins with an investigation of personal virtue.
- For Aristotle, virtue at the personal level and in politics are distinct but related spheres, and on the basis of logic, he begins with virtue at the personal level.
- Although the legislative architecture and the common ends at which a city-state aims might be virtuous, it is often the case that political rulers are corrupt, so Aristotle begins with an investigation of personal virtue.
- Aristotle makes the argument that governments can only be as virtuous as individual citizens allow them to be, so he begins with an investigation of personal virtue.

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4.1.15. Why does Aristotle think political science is the most authoritativ...

Author: Saylor Foundation

Why does Aristotle think political science is the most authoritative of the sciences?

Please choose only one answer:

- Because its subject matter concerns how human beings live together in a society, it takes precedence over sciences that have other concerns.
- Because it is concerned with the distribution of political power, it correspondingly has the most authority among the sciences.
- Without political science, the other sciences would not exist.
- Political science prescribes which sciences should be taught and legislates what must be done and what must be avoided. It also incorporates the ends to which the other sciences are a means, and does so not merely for the individual but for the polis as a whole.

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4.1.16. Why does Aristotle think that justice seems to be supreme among the...

Author: Saylor Foundation

Why does Aristotle think that justice seems to be supreme among the virtues, and that in justice all virtue is summed up?

Please choose only one answer:

- Justice can only be derived by abstracting from all the other, more worldly virtues, and by coming to an understanding of formal reality.
- All virtue is summed up in justice because there is no basic virtue that we might not be required to exercise in acting justly. It is supreme because its exercise perfects each of the other virtues in being for the good of another person.
- Justice is perfectly aligned with the rational part of the soul, and is not tainted by the emotions like the other virtues.
- When administered correctly, justice structures society in perfect alignment with the world of the gods.

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4.1.17. Why does Socrates refuse Crito's entreaties to escape from prison a...

Author: Saylor Foundation

Why does Socrates refuse Crito's entreaties to escape from prison and his pending execution?

Please choose only one answer:

- It would be against the law of Athens to do so.
- Although he disagrees with the verdict and the severity of the punishment, Socrates sympathizes with some of the arguments made by the prosecution.
- Socrates has heard from the Oracle at Delphi that he should not escape from prison and that he should accept his fate.
- Even though Crito's reasons for escaping are right, Socrates fears what other people would say about him if he did escape.
- Socrates feels his life has run its proper course, and it would not be fitting for a man of his stature and age to be a fugitive.

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4.1.18. With regard to distributive justice, Aristotle argues that:

Author: Saylor Foundation

With regard to distributive justice, Aristotle argues that:

Please choose only one answer:

- Resources should be distributed across society to attain the maximum strength and prosperity of the city-state as a whole, compared with other city-states.
- Resources should be distributed away from those who have already crossed a certain threshold of well-being to help ensure that others will cross this same threshold.
- Situations and communities are just when individuals receive benefits according to their merits, or virtue—the most virtuous should receive more of whatever goods society is in a position to distribute.
- A basic level of resources should be distributed by the political class equally among all citizens to prevent discord and promote harmony, while saving resources for public festivals celebrating the gods.

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