

**Note: Book One is the most difficult book in the *Republic*. You may need to read it more than once to understand it, but Plato "recycles" the ideas of Book One throughout the rest of the book.**

Book One

1. Comment on the statement in line 331 d “that it is just to give a man what is owed.” What does he mean by this? In what ways is this just? What situations are there where it might be unjust?

2. Comment on the statement “justice is helping friends and harming enemies.”

3. In lines 336 d and e, you will notice a word picture of Thrasymachus as he enters the story? What do you visualize as you read this? How does this foreshadow the character of Thrasymachus?

4. In what ways is Thrasymachus' view of justice deficient?

5. Socrates makes the statement: "there isn't anyone who holds any position of rule, insofar as he is ruler, who considers or commands his own advantage rather than that of what is ruled . . ." (line 342 e). Do you agree or disagree? Why? Can you give examples?

6. What does Socrates mean when he says "the greatest of penalties is being ruled by a worse man if one is unwilling to rule oneself"? (line 347 c) What do you think about his opinion? List any Biblical parallels to support his statement, or Biblical evidence to the contrary.

7. In line 351 d, Socrates says: “it is injustice that produces factions, hatreds, and quarrels among themselves, and justice that produces unanimity and friendship . . . “  
Evaluate this statement in light of the Scriptures.

8. In line 354 a, Socrates says that “injustice is never more profitable than justice.” What does he mean by this? Is he correct? Why or why not?

### Book Two

1. Read lines 359c through 361d. What is the point that is being made about Gyges’ ring? If you are familiar with J. R. R. Tolkien’s *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy, give an opinion about whether Tolkien could have gotten the idea for his story from this section in the *Republic*?

2. Why doesn't Socrates look to the gods for justice?

3. Explain the analogy of the eye chart in lines 368c through 369a. Do you think this analogy adequately explains the relationship between justice in the individual and justice in the city? Why or why not?

4. Describe the perfect city as envisioned by Socrates.

5. Describe the guardians of the city. How are they selected? What are they like?

6. Describe Plato's plan of education for the guardians.

7. Describe Plato's view of censorship.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Describe Plato's view of the gods.