

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

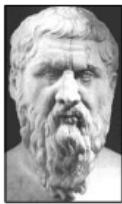
Religious Studies Year 11-12 Transition Material



Plato : The Allegory of the Cave

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N6LUptADlww>

1. Explain what you think the allegory is about
2. What philosophical issues is Plato trying to make
3. See below



Plato
(427-347 BCE)

From your viewing of the clip and your pictures. Consider for a moment what the different things might represent .

The cave	The track out of the cave	The chains
The sun	The statues	The shadows
The prisoners	leaving/ re entering the cave	The outside world

The Allegory of the Cave

Plato used his famous _____ of the cave to draw attention to the difference between _____ and the _____ world. This illustrated his view that true knowledge is not what man has been _____ or shown, and is not based only on opinion but rather is what he has found out for himself after long and rigorous intellectual searching. Only what is _____ can be the source of true knowledge, not the _____ of the physical world, which are always changing. The unchanging _____ are those that Plato believed could be apprehended only by the _____, since those we experience through the senses are only _____ copies. The truly unchanging, perfect and ultimately unknowable reality show

Realities	told	real	mind	imperfect	permanent
allegory		permanent	objects	appearances	difficulties

Inside the cave

In the allegory of the cave, Plato describes a group of chained _____ who can only look ahead, although a fire behind them throws _____ on the wall. They know nothing other than their life in the cave, so they naturally believe it to be _____ and the shadows thrown on the wall of the cave to be pictures of the real world.

They do not _____ them merely as reflections of reality, or the sounds they hear to be echoes of what is going on in the real world. Plato uses this image to illustrate the mind of the _____ man, who simply accepts what he hears, and never questions whether it is valuable, good or _____. When one of the prisoners escapes from the cave, he is overwhelmed by what he finds outside and naturally, takes some time to adjust to the daylight and what it _____. When he finally _____ that he is now experiencing true reality, he returns to the cave to tell his former fellow prisoners. Still in the darkness, they mock him and refuse to _____ the cave themselves.

perceive	reality	shadows	true	prisoners
unthinking	come out	grasps	reveals	

Watch the clip again and explain what Plato means by the following quotations

"better to be the poor servant of a poor master than to endure anything and think as they (the other prisoners) do ..and live after their manner "

" It is the task of the enlightened ,not only to ascend and to learning and to see the good, but be willing to descend again to those prisoners ,to share their troubles and their honours and

1. How would you assess Plato's comments here?
2. What does he mean?
3. Write a brief explanation for both ideas

A priori	<p>when one thing depends on another for some reason. An example would be a human. Without our parents we would not exist</p>
A posteriori	<p>Relates to the Cosmos or Universe. The argument concludes that God is the cause</p>
Assumption	<p>An argument or truth which is independent of experience- it looks at an idea (e.g. mathematics- a triangle has 180 degrees)</p>
Causation	<p>part of an argument which is hidden which is taken for granted (e.g if you say abortion is murder you are assuming that a foetus is a person)</p>
Contingent	<p>an argument or truth that comes from experience through the senses also known as Empirical evidence</p>
Cosmological	<p>the process of cause and effect- if x causes y, x initiates a change in y (e.g. the white snooker ball is the cause and the black ball in the pocket is the effect)</p>
Creationist	<p>In all possible worlds this being would have to exist- depends on nothing else for its existence</p>
Immanent	<p>Theory of Charles Darwin that organisms compete for survival and adapt over time- referred to as evolution</p>
Impersonal	<p>God cannot be understood in human terms- e.g. God's morality cannot be understood from a human perspective</p>
Judaeo-Christian	<p>the traditional western concept of what God is like</p>
Natural Selection	<p>The idea that God is capable of acting directly within the Universe. E.g. the holy spirit heals someone</p>
Necessary being	<p>A person who takes the creation story literally and reject theories like evolution</p>

Personal	God can be described in terms related to human beings e.g. God is loving, forgiving, just etc.
Premise	An attempt to solve the problem of evil and suffering whilst retaining the traditional Judaeo-Christian concept of God
Theodicy	One of the steps in an argument which leads to a conclusion Teleological: Telos means goal or purpose- this relates to the idea that the world is designed by god for a purpose
Transgression	The idea that God is outside our Universe and therefore outside space and time
Transcendent	To break a rule or law- a miracle can be seen as a _____ of a law of nature