

Critically analyze the features of Plato's Republic. Do you think some of its features are valid even today?

Plato's Republic is his idea of Justice, its definition and full content.

Every writer has his own way of conveying ~~most~~ ideas. Shakespeare wrote plays, Milton wrote poetry and Plato's style is dialogue. He mentioned a dialogue where on one side is Socrates (his teacher) and on the other side are some Greek philosophers.

Cephalus, an old wealthy man describes <sup>the</sup> justice as speaking truth and paying debts.

Polymarchus, his son, agrees with him and said justice is giving everyone his due.

Socrates stops him and asks him ~~for~~ ~~is~~ does he intend

to say that doing good with  
friends and doing bad with  
enemies. Polymachus agrees.  
Socrates diminishes his thought  
says that doing bad would make  
the enemies even more worse.  
Thrasymachus says justice is  
interest of the stronger. Might  
is right. ~~Plato~~ Socrates denies  
all the definitions of Justice  
given by them. For Socrates  
Justice is highly related to man's  
soul. Thus, Plato reaches to  
his real task, which is constan-  
-tion of ideal just state.

## Silent features of Plato's Republic

### 1- Division of Society

As per Plato, there are three  
motivational forces in a human.

- Hunger / Desire
- Bravery / Courage
- Wisdom.

He said ~~most~~ <sup>all</sup> of the people exist on earth have three forces to some extent, but one of them is dominant force. He further said collect those whose dominant force is hunger and put them in one class. They are producers. These are usually high in number. Next collect those whose dominant force is courage and put them in another class which is soldiers. There very few people would be found with wisdom as their dominant force. They are rulers. Thus, Plato divides society into 3 classes

- 1- Producers: They will produce material things for others
- 2- Soldiers: They will be allocated for the defense
- 3- Rulers: They will rule over the state.

But the criteria to decide

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
category for each is education

## 2- Education

Plato said, education should be controlled by the state as its very important to make a state a welfare state. He said education should be provided to every one. From 1 to 7 years, child should be responsibility of parents. They have to educate him by telling the stories of patriotism. Then state take responsibility of education from 7 to 18 years and teach them only 2 subjects Music and Gymnastic. After that there should be a military training for 2 years. A screening test should be taken from them and those who fail should be considered as producers.

After that 15 years of higher education should be there and

for first 10 years Maths and  
Astronomy should be taught  
and remaining 5 years should  
-d be utilized for teaching  
dialogue, dialect, philosophy,  
and Q & As.

Screening should be continued  
along with the study and those  
who fail but are courageous  
enough should be considered  
as soldiers.

After that 15 years of practi-  
-cal knowledge is also requir-  
-ed. They need to serve to  
fields for practical work.  
There would very a few  
people who qualify all the  
tests and make them rules.  
Do not make any law for  
them as whatever they speak  
is law. They have proved  
their wisdom.

### 3- Equality

Plato said all the members of the state should be given an equal opportunity, irrespective of gender like Male, female and race or financial status.

### 4- Justice

For Plato Justice is giving every man his due. In Plato's state all three classes are created based on the ability. So those who deserve to be rulers are given opportunity and those who deserve to be soldiers are also given equal opportunity and those who are able to produce for state are also considered equally. When the job is given to a person based on his/her interest and ability then he/she will enjoy doing it.

### 5- Absoluteness

Plato said there should be no-interference among all these classes. Since all ~~have~~ <sup>are</sup> qualified for their tasks so they all are justified enough in their work. They have competency to perform their duties.

### 6- Aristocracy

Plato said only couple of people would be there who will be able to qualify for rulers. So his republic consists of few rulers who will rule over the state and no law or constitution would be there which can be applied on them.

### 7- Rule of Philosophers

Plato said rulers must be philosophers as they have ability or tendency to differentiate between appearance and reality.

Plato's education consists of teaching philosophy as according to Plato philosophers are statesmen who virtue with their actions.

8- Restriction on harmful literature  
 Plato said banish poets as they show an imaginary world that don't even exist. They divert us from reality. And while teaching literature to children beware of such things

## Criticism

1- Division of society

Practically it's not possible to divide the society. There may exist other talents as well

This is the boring concept where every one is doing / learning same thing ~~last~~ for so many years just to identify class.



2- Degeneracy in Education scheme  
 Plato did not allow higher edu-  
 cation for producers. One should  
 have skills to work in any  
 field. Secondly Plato did  
 not mention about economics,  
 political science, psychology  
 for rulers. They need to learn  
 this to run the ~~country~~ <sup>state</sup> and  
 take decisions. Thirdly 50 years  
 of education are too much for  
 a person.

3- No check and balance  
 Plato ~~contributes~~ <sup>promotes</sup> the principle of

non-interference. Absoluteness  
 leads to dictatorship and dur-  
 -ing absence of constitution or  
 law for rulers it may make  
 violation of fundamental rights  
 easier.

4- Communism is against nature.

Marriage and family is in human nature. This feature is against human nature and it may lead to losing many good rules just because they are interested in family.

(Remaining silent feature)

7- Communism

1- Communism of property

Plato said do not give right to rulers or soldiers to make private property. Their focus should be only on state affairs.

2- Communism of family

Plato gave the concept of common wives so that it's not possible to identify which child is of which ruler. He said family engenders to make prosperity and great

attention to other matters.

Features valued in today's era

### 1- Equality

Equal opportunity ~~to~~ education should be provided to all. This feature is valued for teacher as in our state only rich can afford good education.

### 2- Justice

Identifying one's ability and assign him tasks as per that. This can also be applied today as many people study to earn and they don't do where they are interested and able.

### 3- State controlled education

Today the education has been privatized. Although, government

educational institutions exist but their education is not satisfactory. So state should take control of all the education in order to make it affordable.