

Differentiate between Plato's Idealism and Aristotle's Realism.

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Question 04:

Plato's Idealism and Aristotle's Realism

1. Introduction:

Plato and Aristotle were ancient Greece philosophers. Plato was an idealist philosopher. His philosophical views centered around the concept of a perfect society. On the other hand, Aristotle was a realist philosopher. His approach significantly differed from Plato. He emphasized on observation and experience to obtain knowledge and to promote good character. In spite of differences in form and methods, Aristotle is regarded as the greatest Platonist. Furthermore, Aristotle was Plato's student and his philosophy has no page which does not bear the impress of Plato. Aristotle is the most influential philosopher, who also influenced Muslim philosopher Al-Farabi.

2. Similarities in Plato's idealism and Aristotle's Realism:

Both upheld Slavery

Both were against democracy

Both are great advocates of justice

Both believed in welfare state

Both gave importance to education

Classified society based on their own ideologies

Unity and has many within the philosophies

3. Difference between Plato's Idealism and Aristotle's Realism:

Plato

Aristotle

Epistemology

True knowledge comes from reason and recollection of the forms, not senses.

Knowledge comes from observation and experience of the physical world.

Ethics and Politics

Happiness can be achieved from living a virtuous life.

Happiness is flourishing through reason and virtuous action.

Concept of Politics

Ideal state with rigid social order, classified in three classes, which will be ruled by philosopher king.

Best state prioritize virtue and common good. However, state evolve and it is a cycle.

Concept of Family

Family is less important in ideal state. Communism of wife wives and children for guardians and warriors. to avoid conflicts.	Family is fundamental in realist state. It nurtures and virtue and is the basic unit of life.
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Concept of Property

Plato advocates for the communal ownership to avoid social strife and inequality.

Private property is essential. It encourages responsibility and economic stability. However, Aristotle advocated for less property, ^{should} not be unlimited.

Concept of Justice

Justice is when each class performs its role properly. It ensures harmony.

Justice involves fairness and the law. ensure individual receive what they deserve.

Concept of Education

In Plato's ideal state, education

Education should cultivate virtue and

system is based on principle of filter out philosophers from others.	practical skills.
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Ideal state

A hierarchical society ruled by wise philosopher king.	A constitutional government that promote middle class.
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Place of Law

Laws are secondary to ruler's wisdom. Philosopher king can override laws.	Aristotle gave supreme place to law instead of personal and deposit rule of virtuous person.
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4. Conclusion:

Although, Aristotle was a student of Plato, however his ideology differed from him. Both gave different ideas for their time of governments. These ideas were considered virtuous for their time. They tried to give rights to citizens on their own ways.