

Discuss in detail the Plato's concept of Justice?

ANS:

1-Introduction:

Justice is an imperative concept in Political Science and has a significant importance in any state. Plato, being a philosopher, tried to find the meaning of justice. By Socratic method, he gave his theory of justice. Furthermore, for the implementation of Justice, he propounded the theory of social structure. In order to justify his theory, he proposed a noble lie. Lastly, for the maintenance of justice he presented theory of education, communism, and breeding.

2- Plato's Theory of Justice :

Being a student of Socrates, Plato used the Socratic method to find the meaning of justice.

a- Dialogue of Socrates with Several Thinkers:

Socrates: "What is Justice?"

i-Thinker no 1: "Justice is speaking the truth and paying one's debts."
Loop hole: What if the truth harms the integrity of the state?

ii-Thinker no 2: "Justice is doing good to one's friend and bad to one's enemy."

Loop hole: What if your friend is harming others?

iii-Thinker no 3: "Justice is the interests of the ruler."

Loop hole: What if the ruler is not the right person to rule.

b-Plato's definition of Justice:

"Justice is minding one's own business, and not meddling with other man's concern."

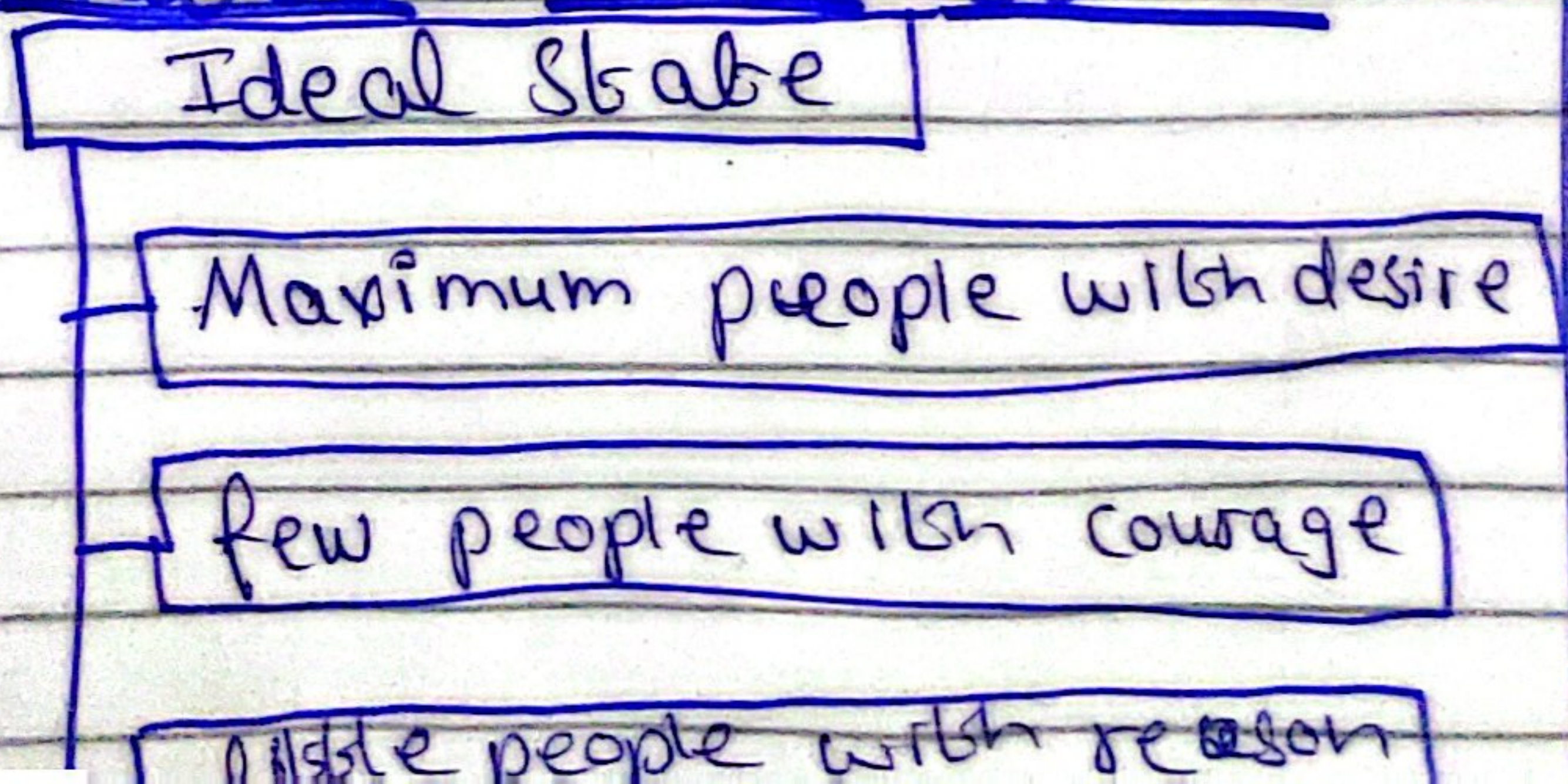
i- After describing Justice, Plato proposed the social structure through which the state or society can have Justice.

3- Theory of Class System by Plato:

Dominant Trait	Social class	Social Role
i- Desire	Artisans	working trades such as trade, business and agriculture
ii- Courage	Military	Protect the state and defence.
ii- Wisdom	governing Rulers	serve as rulers and decision making

Plato suggests that if the society is divided in accordance to the roles which coincide with dominant traits, justice will be served. Furthermore, no one should intervene in the affairs of others. By doing this balance can be maintained.

a- Plato's Ideal State:



b-Plato's ideal Man:

ideal man

↓
Maximum wisdom

↓
Fearless undimmed courage

↓
minimum desire.

4- Plato's Noble lie:

In order to justify his theory of social class, he propounded a noble lie. He assigned different metals to different classes, and asserted that it is a division by god; people must respect god's choice and live according to assigned roles.

Social class	Assigned Metal
Rulers	Gold
Military	Silver
Artisan	Bronze

5- Concept of Misuse of Power:

When the power will be divided into different categories, chances of misuse of power will still be a threat. According to Plato,

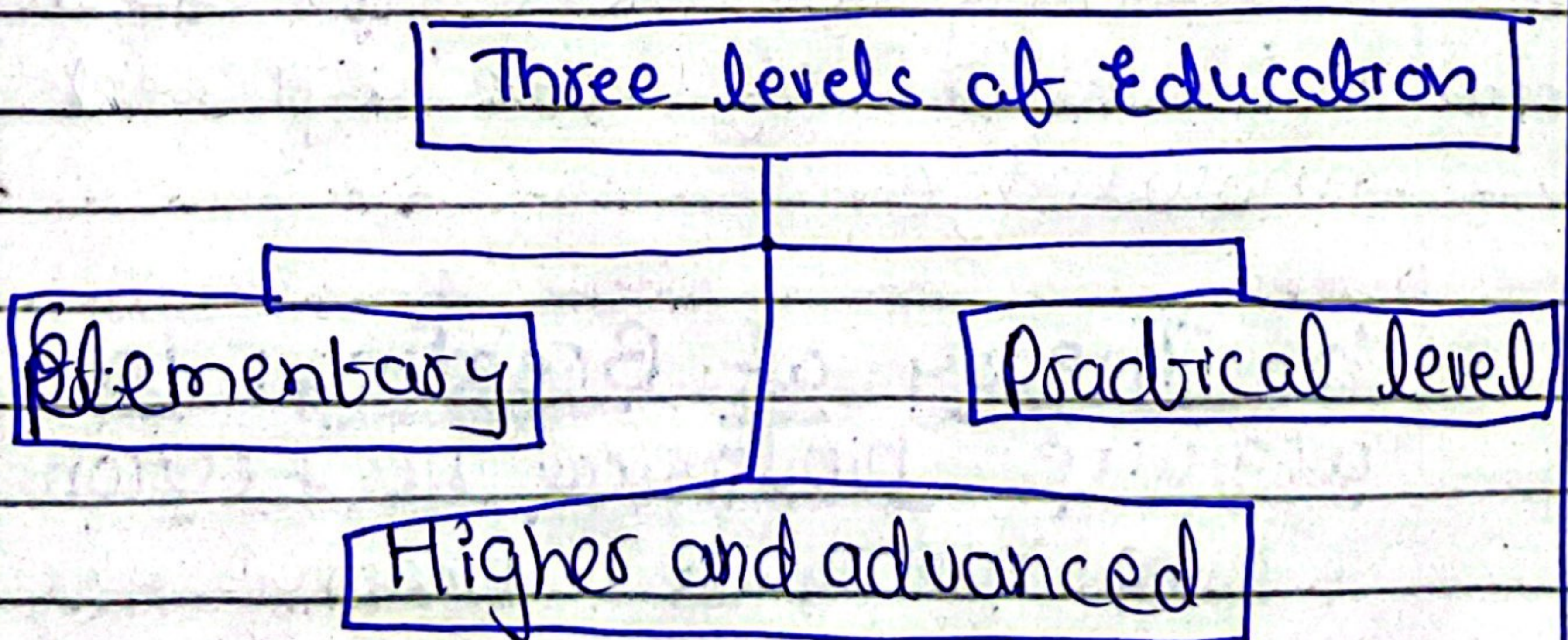
Three reasons of Power misuse:

- i- Mind
- ii - Blood
- iii - Family

He proposed theories in order to diminish the misuse of power correspond to reasons: mind, Blood, and family.

a- Theory of Education: Educating people to control their mind

Plato proposed three level of education to shortlist people and assigning them different roles.



i- Elementary level: ~~From~~ Till the age of 18, people will get elementary education. At this level, they will be taught basic science, gymnastics and patriotic music and poetry. After this, ~~the~~ ~~bill~~ for two years, they will serve in Military.

ii- Higher and Advance:

Higher Education: - 21 to 30 years

- Astronomy and mathematics as subjects

Advanced Education: 31 - 35 years

Advanced Mathematics and philosophy.

ii) Phase 3: Practical Education

- From age of 36 to 50 years.

- Training on the practical application of the acquired knowledge.

b- Theory of Breeding: to acquire biological perfection

Plato proposed theory of breeding to have the best possible off-spring who can contribute to state.

Salient Features:

- i- Mating season at the specific time of the year
- ii- Perfect man and women to have a best possible offspring
- iii- Abortion and infanticide if the offspring is potentially weak.

C- Concept of Communism:

In order to protect ruling and military class from misusing their power and become greedy and self-interested, Plato gave certain rules which will diminish the threat of corruption by military and ruling.

Restrictions	Restriction to have family	Restriction to have Property
Alternative	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ common wives and children.◦ No marriages relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ state managed accommodation◦ common meals from mess.

6- Conclusion:

To conclude, Plato gave significantly important concepts of justice for an ideal state. Although this theory has many impracticalities, but, however, it is the imperative contribution in the field of political science. Plato's work has done enormous contribution in philosophy and development of political science.