

(CSS - 2017)

Q) Discuss in detail the Plato's concept of 'Justice'

My Question

Thank you, Sir, for checking my assignments.  
Sir, I want to ask about the length of question. How to increase length in optional subjects. (Specially in Environmental Science).

Q

Ans : Plato's concept of 'Justice'

## Introduction

Plato was born in Athens. He gets early education at home, later on he became a student of Socrates, until Socrates was executed. Plato gives his concept of justice and also provides the schemes of how to apply it. This theory was the first political theory.

## Context of Theory

Plato presents this theory because of two reasons :

### i) Executed of Socrates :

The first to present this theory was execution of Socrates because of direct democracy. Plato considered it injustice and criticizes the system. So, to give answer how the ideal society should look like, he presents the theory of justice in the book of "The Republic".

"For the extreme of injustice is to seem to be just when one is not"

- Plato, The Republic of Plato

### ii) Peloponnesian War :

Plato grew up during the Peloponnesian war and came of age around



the time of Athens' final defeat by Sparta. At that time, Athens' political system was democracy and Sparta having a monarchy. Plato see this difference as a reason. So, he gives a concept of justice, of how should society work.

## Concept of Justice

The concept of Justice states that every individuals have three qualities that controll their behaviour. These three qualities are:

- i. Lust or Appetite
- ii. Courage or Spirit
- iii. Wisdom or Reasoning

However, one of these qualities is dominated. Moreover, Plato says that the number of people who having lust dominate will the highest and on second comes courage and least number of people having wisdom is dominated.

## Justice in Society:

According to the Plato concept of justice. Every individual should be divided in the classes according to their qualities that are dominated. Moreover, every individual should be given the task according to their qualities.

He divided society into three classes:

i. Workers

Those individual who having lust dominate should be given workers tasks.

ii. Military:

Those people who are brave and courage is dominate should be in military.

iii. Rulers:

Those who having wisdom quality quality dominated should be the rulers.

In short, it can stated that concept of justice of Plato describes functional specialization.

## How to Implement and Identify:

The concept of justice divides society into three class; however, to implement and identify the people which class they belongs and to implement the system Plato presents a theory of education

Theory of education divides education into three stages

- i. Elementary Education
- ii. Higher Education
- iii. Ruler's Education



## i. Elementary Education:

The elementary education have two sub-categories

### a. Birth to 6 years:

In this stage, when a children is born, he or she will be given its state sponsored mother. At this stage, the mother will tell them stories of greek heroes, and folks of their beavery.

### b. 6 to 18 years:

At this age, child will go to school and learn literature, music and gymnastic.

## ii. Higher Education:

After getting elementary education, a exam will happen and those who who clear the exam will be come to get higher education and those who did not clear the examination will become the workers, <sup>and</sup> according to the theory of justice they will do workers tasks.

Those who clear the examination should learn advanced mathematics, philosophy and basic science. However, military training will continue till 35.

## iii. Ruler's Education:

After getting higher education, a ~~exam~~ exam will happen. Those who

clear the examination will take more education and those who did not make it they will be called as military and according to justice concept they will be appointed in military.

Those clear will get education of various subjects. In addition, it is that they will be attached with rules. After 50 years they will become the ruler and according to theory of justice, they will be the politicians and one of them will become philosopher king.

These three stages described the plan of identification of class and implementation of theory of justice.

## Plato's Theory of Justice and its Importance in Modern Era

The theory of justice has its importance in the contemporary world. Some of the points are shown under:

### i. Gender Equality:

Theory of justice describes the class according to qualities not based on gender. Even in the Plato concept of justice a woman can also be a philosopher king.



## ii. Politics & Theory :

This theory was the first theory for the political system in the society.

## iii. Concept of Examination :

Plato was the first one who give the concept of examination. Although, it was given in education theory, this theory was made for concept of justice.

## Criticism on the Theory of Justice

Plato theory of justice was the first political science theory. However, this theory was not practical because of many reasons. This theory lacks behind in many ways some of them are given as under:

### (i) Divide in classes:

Many people can be brave as well as can possess wisdom, but Plato says only one quality is dominated.

### (ii) Disbelief in capacity of masses:

Plato already believed that there will less number of wisdom in the society.

### Conclusion:

Division of labour as basis of their qualities ensures justice according

to the Plato's concept of Justice. Additionally, it gives plans its implementation. However, there are some relevance according to the Modern Era and some criticism on this theory as well. However, this theory was the first political theory and of social science.