

Q Evaluate Plato's Concept of Philosopher-King. Do you consider it a practical Political ideal in contemporary democratic states?

## 1 Introduction

Plato (427-344 B.C.) known for his work in political science. His most celebrated work is his book "Republic". In his book, he described the process of education to achieve an ideal state. However, his work was criticized by later philosophers. Philosopher-king is a concept of ~~pta~~ Plato to inculcate justice in the society. Many philosophers criticized his work, and it is impractical to apply his concept in contemporary democratic states.

## 2 Concept of Philosopher-King

Plato introduced his "theory of Education" to achieve an ideal state lead by a Philosopher-king through his wisdom. He divided education in certain stages to excrete other classes and secure Philosopher-king. Plato's core purpose was to achieve justice and create harmony within the society. He proposed one of



the longest education system.

## 2.1 First Stage (0-7 years)

In this stage, an individual learns basic education from his mother, which includes stories, mythological folktales and morality. In family, an individual learn from his family and try to understand stories.

## 2.2 Second Stage (7-18 years)

In this stage, an individual learns physical skills like gymnastics. This includes all the classes described by Plato. They learn military tactics and gymnastic to achieve physical strength. Afterward, the test was conducted and those who pass will enter into the next stage.

## 2.3 Third Stage (18-20 years)

In this stage, qualified candidates increased their training session to achieve ideal military strength. They invest most of their time to learn military skills, and they were the people who guard the state "guardians".

## 2.4 Fourth Stage (20-30 years)

In this stage, students will learn science and mathematics to expand their wisdom. They learn the realities of the world.

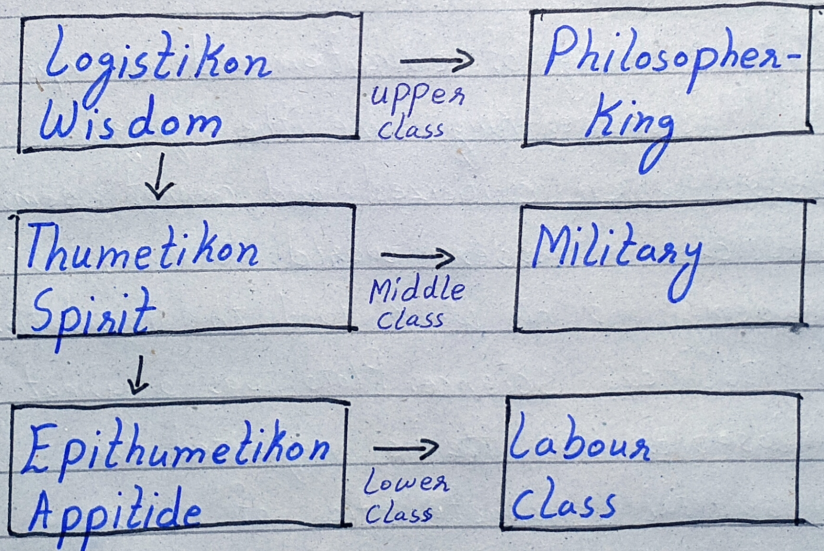


## 2.5 Fifth Stage (30-35 years)

In this stage, students will learn about social sciences and more subject, like sociology. In this stage, they try to cover all theoretical knowledge and human nature.

## 2.6 Sixth Stage (35-50 years)

This is a last stage in which students practically apply the theories, and try to understand impact of their decisions. In this stage, the one who pass the exam will become a Philosopher-King.



## 3 Practical Implications in Contemporary World

Plato presented his theory of ideal state, but Aristotle identified many flaws. Afterward,



it becomes irrelevant. Today, his concept seems as "Utopian", which cannot be applied practically. However, Plato's theory is considered a cornerstone of political science. It cannot be applied practically and the reasons are:

- Imaginary and utopian concept
- Neglect fundamental principles of nature
- Absolute power exists
- Rule of Philosopher-King
- Discriminatory in nature
- Create Disunity among masses

#### 4 Conclusion

Plato's theory of education and concept of Philosopher-king are the highlighted ideas, which are criticized and cannot seem practical in the modern world. However, his academy and his work laid the foundation of political science. Plato was a great philosopher but ~~the~~ he neglected the fundamental characteristics of nature.

A life-long education system cripples the society, and if it achieved, creates a totalitarianism.

"If men neglects the education, he walks lame in the society" Plato