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Q1) Critically analyze the salient features of Plato's Republic. Do you think that some of its features are valid, even today? ~~Also discuss Plato's concept~~

~~Q2) of Justice.~~

Q2) Write a comparative analysis on Aristotle's and Plato's concept of 'Ideal city state'.

Answers

Answer 1: Introduction:

Plato, a great philosopher in political science was basically student of Socrates who had gotten hemlock due to raising questioning attitude in Athens. As Plato was the student of Socrates, so he had seen this whole incident and it imparted deep impression on Plato's mentality which is lucid in his writing. Plato was perfectionist. In his book 'Republic', he told about the nature of a state, rules and ^{also explain} how to do Justice which was irrelevant to reward and punishment. He has a famous quotation:

"No great mind existed without touch of madness."

Approach and Epistemology of Plato:

Plato's epistemology is combination of different novel features which are shortly described as below.

(i) Rationalist: Pto

Plato has strongly emphasis on

logic and reasoning. He was against Athenian democracy as he was not in favour of giving every person the right to take part in governance. He said only wise and rational people should rule.

(ii) Perfectionist

Plato has emphasised on 'what should be' instead of focusing on reality i.e. 'what really exists'. His ideal philosophy-kings^{and} ideal states are based on perfectionism.

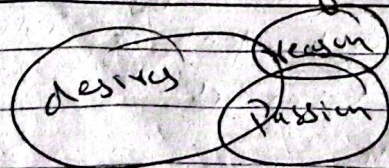
Background of Plato's Republic:

Plato was inhabitant of Athens. At his time, there was a massive war between Athens and Sparta city-states. Athens lost the war and degraded its nobility and glorification. So, Plato started reflection on how and why Athens undergone towards declination and how states could suffer from setback. In his excellent book 'The Republic', he has proposed an ideal type of city-states, justice, and rulers.

Sailent Features of Plato's Republic:

Plato's republic is combination of different unique features which are being described as below:

(i) Tripartite model of Human Soul:



In his tripartite model, he

classified human soul into three categories.

- (i) Desires → associated with workers. Workers only desire's that they could fulfill their food, shelter and clothes etc.
- (ii) ^{Passion} Reason → It is associated with people who have a strong desire to defend their country, even they are ready to lay their lives for their home country.
- (iii) Reason → This trait is associated with the ruling class of the country. Through wise team, they could rule.

② Concept of Justice

Plato has also given an extraordinary concept of 'Justice' which is totally indifferent to general perception about word 'Justice'. Plato's has incorporated the meaning of Justice is to "give the due right of every person" which means every individual should be given that role for which he is best fitted in the society. For example : If a person has leadership skills and reasoning ability, the Justice is that he should given an opportunity to take part in politics.

③ Communism of family and Property

Plato has suggested that rulers' & children should be raised by the government so that they could not be indulged in corruption and other illegal practices for feeding them. Also, he recommended to take away the right of property from rulers as property breeds greed and other evils.

Date: _____

Day: _____

④ Educational hierarchy:

Plato has proposed three levels for education.

Initial Stage	Middle stage	Final stage
(0-20) ^(age) years	(20-35) ^(age) years	35-50 ^(age) years

a) Initial stage : (0-20 years age)

The initial stage of education is ^{open} for all the individuals. It contains education up to 18 years and then two years military training. At 20 years, screening is done. Those who failed become peasants and others move to next stage.

b) Middle stage : In this stage, individuals have been taught mathematics up to 30 years and then logic and reasoning further five years. At the age of 35, screening is done. Successful students proceed to final level and unsuccessful become warriors.

c) Final stage : - At this stage, most talented individuals are being selected. At the age of 50, the successful people become philosopher-king and ^{become} able to rule.

⑤ Censorship on Individual Liberty

Plato has defined liberty as the permission granted to people to do that actions which are necessary to fulfill their assigned roles. Excessive liberty is harmful as it could create chaos and frustration in society.

⑥ Supporting Absolutism

Plato has supported the absolutism. He has given statement that as

only rulers are high in reasoning than other individuals so their decisions should be treated as final. Nobody is allowed to challenge them.

④ Critic of Democracy:-

Plato has deeply reflected back on the Athenian social and political circumstances. So, he has proposed that not everyone should be given right to rule instead it should be limited to only wise people.

⑤ Law Formulation:-

Plato has advised that rulers should not follow laws blindly rather they should be capable of formulating new laws as per the situation. So, it has signalled that laws should be flexible and should be formed and formulated through reasoning.

Evaluation & Applicability of Plato's Republic's Features:-

Plato's ^{Republic's} features are mostly inapplicable in real world. However, there are some features that are still applicable. All the features which are applicable or not have been discussed as below:-

(i) Law Formulation:- Plato

Plato concept about law formulation and flexibility is applicable in present day world. In the present day globalized world, people are experiencing constant changes in the social, economic,

and cultural practices with the innovation of new products. For example: Social media, e-commerce, and AI etc. These demand formulation of new laws and to modify existing laws as per requirement of society.

(ii) No space for Absolutism and censorship on Individual liberty:

In the modern world, it's difficult to impose restrictions on individual liberty as social media existed which exposed the reality before world. Also, international organizations and treaties have even forced countries other than democratic to protect individual freedom. UDHR is best example of it. Also, now people are more politically conscious so they left no space for absolutism to emerge.

(iii) Communism of Family and Property:

Preventing parents from leaving their children and ^{not allow to} ~~poss keeping~~ own property is negation of fundamental rights given by UDHR, magna carta, and Islamic laws; it ^{could} ~~does~~ not be left from any person whether he is ruler or an ordinary person. So, Plato's idea of communism of family and property is not applicable in present day world.

Conclusion:

In short, Plato in his republic talked about ideal state, and ideal rulers called as philosopher-kings which are

constituent of perfectionism. Though he has given a hierarchical education structure which blessed a man with experience and expertise in his field. However, his ideas about supporting absolutism and limiting individual freedom are source of criticism for him.

Q#2 Write a Comparative analysis of Aristotle's and Plato's ^{concept of} ideal state.

Ans Introduction:

Aristotle and Plato are student and teacher to each other. Though Aristotle has learned conventional education from Plato, but Aristotle has shown his disagreements from idealistic and perfectionistic ideas of Plato. So, shortly, one has used pragmatic approach and other has used idealistic approach.

Comparative Analysis of Aristotle's and Plato's Concept of Ideal State :

Aristotle's and Plato's ~~different~~ ^{the concept of} ideas about state are being discussed in the following ways:

Aristotle's and Plato's ^{concept of} Ideal State's Domains

- ① → Forms of government
- ② → Functions of state
- ③ → concept of Justice
- ④ → Idea of citizenship
- ⑤ → Idealistic vs Pragmatic Approach
- ⑥ → Ownership of Family and Property

out of all these domains, some domains have been divided into further sub-types which will be discussed in the below:

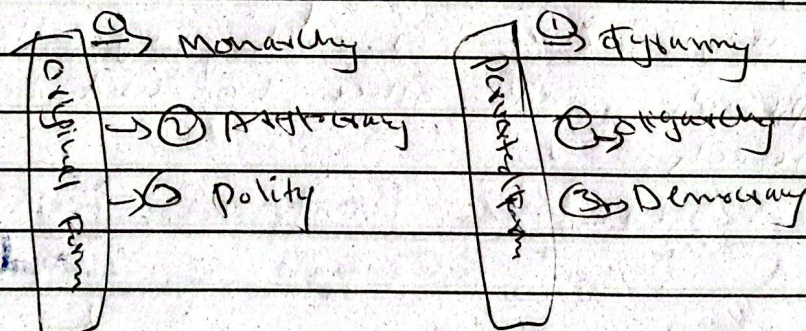
① Forms of Government:

Plato:

Plato talks about form of government that is idealistic and run through philosopher-kings. Unlike Aristotle, he has not classified government into different forms.

Aristotle:

Aristotle refers a practical form of government following moderation of ideas. Aristotle has classified governments into six forms:



out of all the forms of government, Aristotle has called 'polity' as the best form of government, being ruled by majority of middle-class.

② Functions of State:

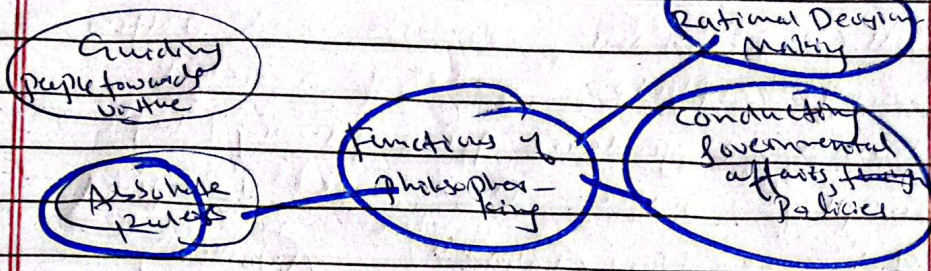
Plato:

In Plato's republic, state is governed through philosopher-kings. He has described different functions of philosopher-kings which are following:

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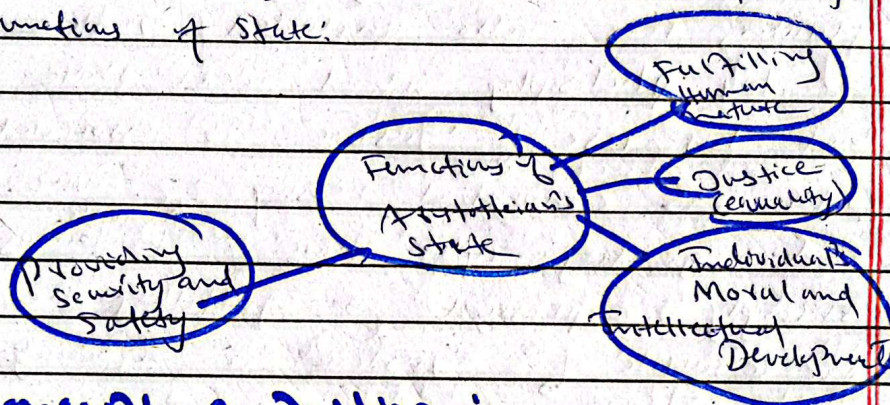
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Day: _____



Aristotle:

Aristotle in his famous work 'Politics' has described man as a political animal. So, keeping view of humans' nature, he has told about following functions of state:

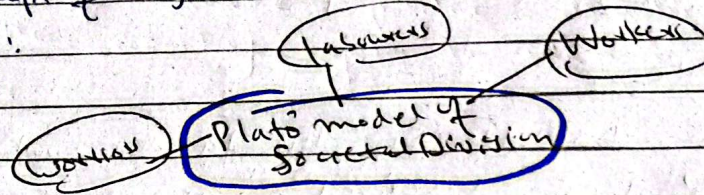


3) Concept of Justice:

Plato:-

Plato has conceptualized 'Justice' in different meanings which is different from its literal and figurative meaning. Rather Plato has attached philosophical meaning with it. He has defined justice as 'giving every individual his due right'. Plato has used **theory of specialization** in his concept of justice which asserts that each individual is capable of performing some specialized role and when each individual will perform its assigned role and will not intervene in other individuals' affairs or state's functions, there

will be a more smooth and perfect society. Plato's model of societal division is guideline for following his concept of Justice. The model is comprised of:



Aristotle:

Aristotle, being a pragmatic thinker, has also included Justice in his philosophy about ideal state but his view of 'Justice' is associated with its conventional meaning i.e. equality and getting right share. Aristotle has strongly emphasised on fulfilling the pre-requisite of Justice is a society. He considered it as a pre-requisite in his philosophy as he said without justice, there will be turmoil and chaos in society. So, mandatory Justice is essential for preserving a society's structure and functioning.

② Idea of citizenship ..

Plato:

Plato has treated all the people in a community as equal and did not show any discrimination towards them based on their gender, class or ethnicity etc. He has talked about the rights of every individual in society through portraying concept of 'Justice' with various interpretation. However, for

Arctostaphylos

Qualities for citizenship

Reasoning

Reciprocity in Rule

17 Side by rules

⑤ Idealistic Vs Pragmatic Approach

Plato:

Activity

Arytalle has talked a bit (moderated)

by using pragmatic approach. One can easily replace elements of pragmatism in his philosophy. Instead of uprooting the whole system of society, Aristotle has argued to make positive amendments in the existing system to make it more better.

③ Ownership of Family and Property

Plato..

Plato has introduced a stunning idea about communism of family and property of rulers in order to compel them to remain away from corruption, greed and other evils. Plato has argued that children of rulers should be reared by government so that their parents, as rulers, ^{could} ~~should not~~ make policies for their welfare. Additionally, the communism of property has also been recommended to ensure efficient and transparent government, free from personal motives.

Aristotle..

As Aristotle strongly believed in practical approaches, so he has not supported the idea of communism of family and property. Rather he has proposed a medium level of government which he called as 'Polity' a blend of good features of democracy and aristocracy. He called Polity as 'rule of middle-class' which could bring stability in the country, so, has not proposed idea of ownership of family and property.

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