

Q No 1
Critically examine the concept
of Justice by Plato.

Answer:

Introduction:

Plato was an ancient Greek philosopher born in Athens, the city state of Greece in 427-347 B.C.

He was the first political philosopher to elucidate the idea of justice in detail.

His idea left not only left lasting impact on European philosopher but on Muslim

philosopher as well. Although his ideas were

best for his time but in modern time it face severe criticism. He was the student

of Socrates. After the death of his teacher, he traveled for 12 years throughout the

mediterranean region. In the period he started extensive writings and wrote many books.

Out of those books "The Republic" is

of great interest.

In Content:

ERA	=> 427-347 BC
Ideology	=> Ideal state
focus	=> Justice
Influenced by	=> Plat Socrates philosophy
Influenced	=> Mill, Marx, Hegel Russel.

Key Works:

- The Republic
- The Law
- Statesman

Political Content:

Plato was influenced by two major events to give theory. These are:

1) Execution of Socrates:

Socrates criticized the direct democracy and called it corrupt system; As a result he was sentenced to death by a jury for 'corrupting the youth' of Athens and

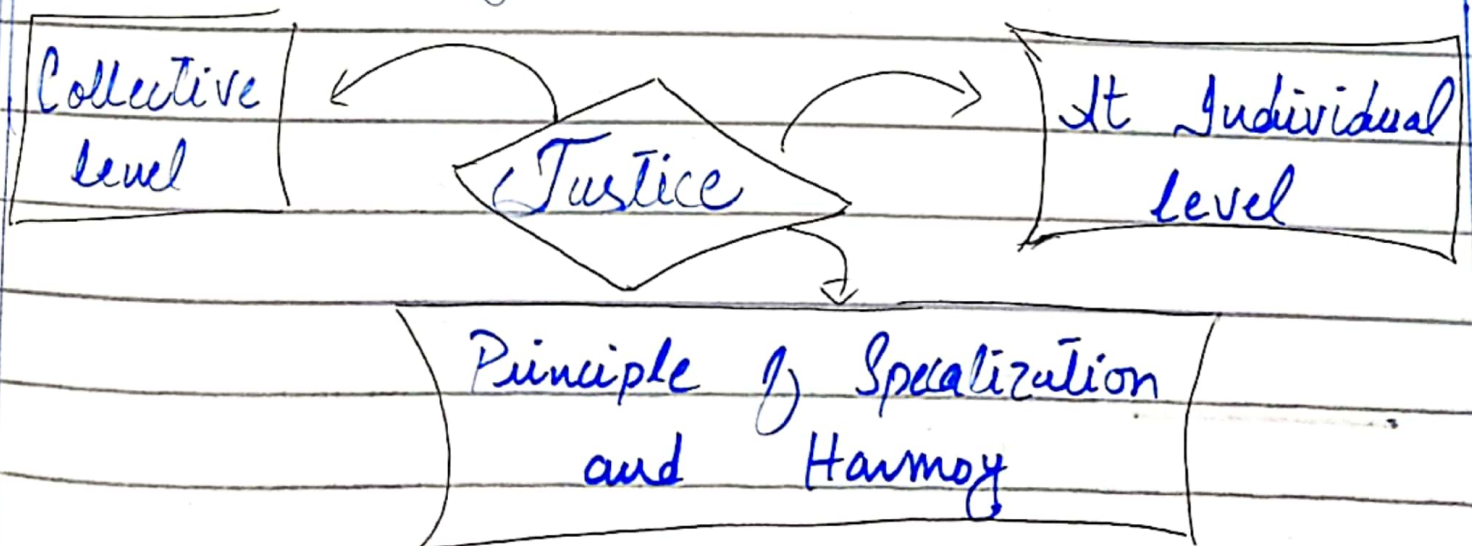
questioning the basic beliefs of Athenian society. Plato was the student of Socrates, when he saw that democracy by ordinary people sentenced the wisest man on Earth to death, he became against democracy.

2) Peloponnesian War:

Athen lost the Peloponnesian war due to which the democratic constitution of Pericles was overthrown and democracy failed to protect Athens against Spartans.

These events dominated his thoughts and as a result, he became averse to democracy.

Plato theory of Justice:



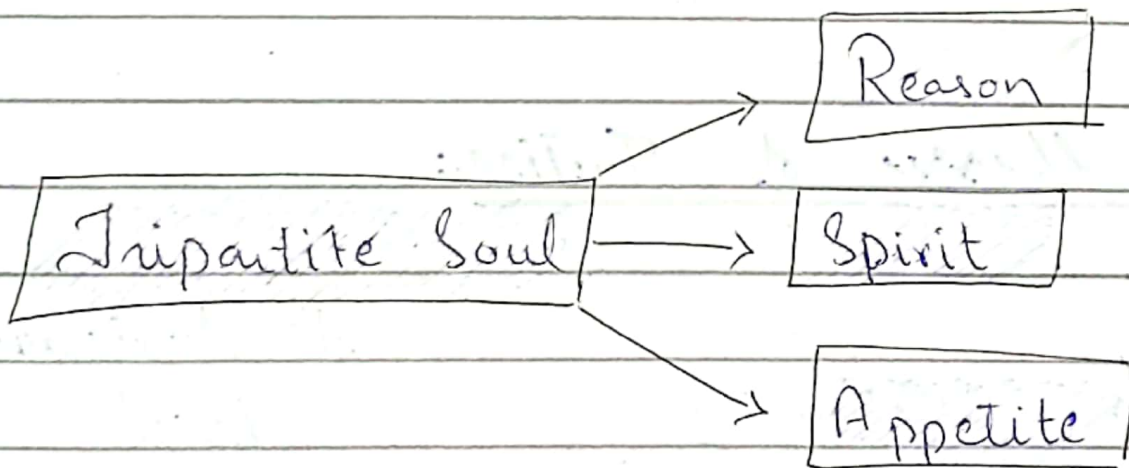
a) Principle of Specialization and Harmony:

Plato's idea of Justice is the basis for his "ideal state".

This justice is specially a frame work of specialization and harmony between different components of an individual and the society.

b) Individual level Justice:

(The tripartite Soul) According to Plato every human being has three components:



Reason ⇒ It is the rational part of soul which is responsible for

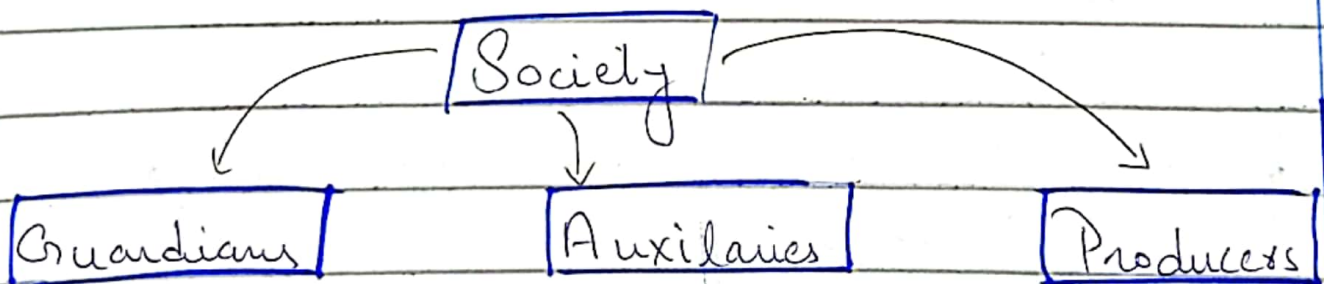
intellectual and philosophical thoughts.

Spirit ⇒ This is the part of soul which desires for honor and glory. It is also responsible for feelings of anger and indignation.

Appetite ⇒ It is responsible for prime and base desires such as the desire for acquisitions of material goods, food and sexual desires.

c) Collective level:

On collective level the society also has three components:



Guardians: They are the ruler class and is dominated by reason.

Auxiliaries : They are the fighters / military people and dominated by spirit / courage

Producers : They play the role of artisans / Farmers / Peasants and are dominated by appetite / Lust.

Plato Principal of Justice

The concept of Justice by Plato is based on three principles:

1) \Rightarrow First it works as "Functional Specialization" like giving a definite role to each according to his capacity.

2) \Rightarrow It works under the principle of "Non Interference" of different groups, so they can focus on their own duty.

3) \Rightarrow It implies "harmony" between the three classes representing wisdom, courage and lust respectively.

Plato Justice

Soul	Class	Virtue	Number
Reason	Rulers	Wisdom	Least
Spirit	Soldiers	Courage	Medium
Lust	Peasants	Appetite	Majority

Criticism:

1) Lack of Opportunities:

Plato system of justice lacks the opportunities for individual. Once a task is assigned to an individual on the basis of his class for the life, he has to stick to that task.

2) Non-Interference:

According to the

non interference principal, where one cannot interfere in other work and only focus on his own duty which is practically impossible because the rule chess with power always influences the weak.

3) Division of society:

The division of society according to plato is practically not possible.

4) Rights Ignorance:

According to plato concept of justice one can perform his own duty for life time. But everyone has the right to choose on the basis of his own personal will.

5) Static life: According to this concept there is no chance for progress. Plato ignores the progressive nature

of human.

Conclusion:

Plato influenced the two major events in his life, compelled him to present his theory of Justice. These events were the death of his teacher "Socrates" and the "Pelopannisian war". In his theory of justice, he divide the society in three classes based on their capability of working. He divided them in Riders, Soldiers and peasants. It later on faced many criticism by the other philosophers.

Q NO 3

Describe critical analysis of Aristotle's classification of government.

ANSWER:

Introduction:

Aristotle is a towering figure in ancient Greek philosophy,

made important contributions in logics, physics, politics, ethics, mathematics, metaphysics and psychology. He was born in Stagira, an Athenian colony in Macedonia. His father was a court physician in Macedonia. He got his early education from his father and later on, at 17 he became the student of "Plato" in "Academy" till his death. He was the student of Plato but famous for rejecting Plato's theory of form. After the death of his teacher he started travelling for the purpose of observing and studying different political systems.

The Lyceum:

After travelling, he returned back to Athens and created his own institution "Lyceum". Most of his life was spent in Lyceum in teaching, reading and writing. He wrote dialogues as many as 200, of which only 31

survived. His work exerted tremendous influence on ancient thoughts and continue to inspire philosopher to this time.

Biography:

Era	⇒	384-322
Ideology	⇒	Democracy
Focus	⇒	Politics
Influenced by	⇒	Plato, Socrates
Influenced	⇒	Alexander, Russel, Ibn Farabi
Key works	⇒	• Politics (Polits) • Rhetoric • Nicomachean Ethics

Context:

Being the great but disgraceful student of Plato, he disagrees with Plato's idea. He studied 158 constitutions of city states. He had no difference between state, government and constitutions. Aristotle started the theory of state

influenced by the training of his father in scientific way. He is called as "Father of political science."

Classification of State:

(((("A state exists for the sake of a good life, and not for the sake of life only..."))))

Aristotle

Aristotle as a student of Plato and science, he was more concerned about explaining the existing states than on what type of state should exist. He has seen and observed different states and constitutions categories than in 6 types on the basis of:

- Number of rulers
- their nature: Good or Bad.

No. of rulers	Good form	: Bad form
1	Monarchy	Tyranny
Few	Aristocracy	Oligarchy
Many	Polity	Democracy

1) Rule of One Person:

i Monarchy:

When a state is ruled by single person and he runs the state for the welfare and betterment of his subject, it is monarchy. The monarch prefers general interest over self interests.

ii Tyranny:

When the state administration is run by a single dictator according to his sweet will. It is the bad form of govt. The is above all and only protect his self interests.

2) Rule of Many:

i) Polity:

In this form, the state administration is run by the middle class. They are elected representative of people and run it according to the will of public.

ii) Democracy:

It is the government of poor and ignorant according to Aristotle it is the worst of form of government. Even today lack of education and knowledge of policies, often poor decision are made which are counter productive to interests of society.

3) Rule of few:

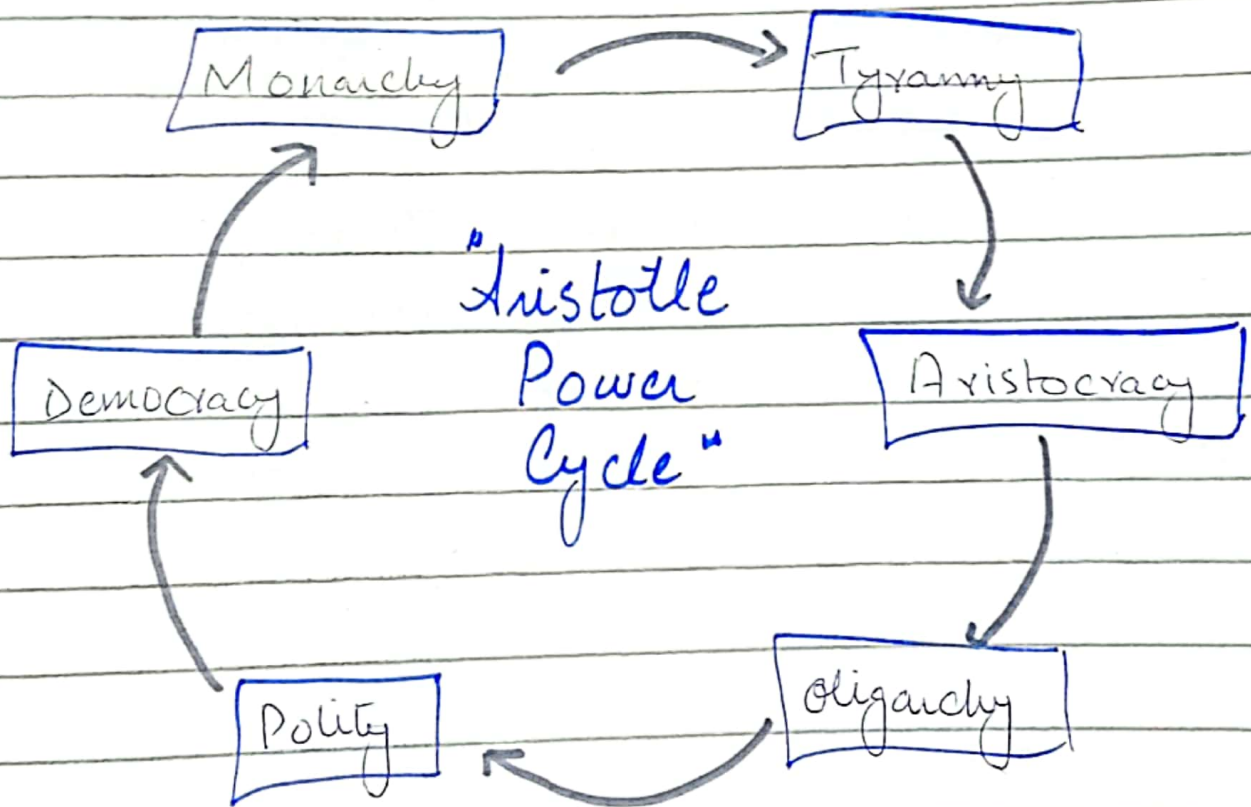
a) Aristocracy:

If sovereignty remains with a small minority of state it is called Aristocracy. They will be chosen from prominent or rich families based on talent.

b) Oligarchy:

If this small sovereignty uses their authority for self interests, then it become oligarchy. Hence, it is the bad form of Aristocracy.

Cycle of Power:



Criticism: According to Aristotle the best form of government is "Monarchy", but when the it is impracticable as the monarch will

will ultimately pursue his own interests and disintegrates it into "Tyranny."

↳ Now the tyranny is followed by a rebellion by few chosen who overthrow and setup "Aristocracy".

This few powered elite, when use this authority for self interests it become

"Oligarchy".

↳ In due course, the large number

of rebellion overthrow the oligarchy and established "Polity". This polity

when stated priority for themselves over general interest it become "Democracy".

After more worsening of condition it

will be ultimately overthrown by a

vicious man who set up monarchy

in his place.

Conclusion:

Aristotle rejected the ideas of his teacher. He traveled around the world and observed different states.

He established his institute "Lyceum". He studied more the 150 constitution of city states and then give his theory of government forms. He classified them in six groups based on the number of rulers and their function either good or bad. In practical world he face some criticism, but on the other hand his concept is still working in this time.

: Q NO 4 :

Examine the main similarities and differences in political ideas of plato and Aristotle.

Answer:

Introduction:

Plato was an ancient Greek philosopher born in Athens in 427 - 347 BC. He was the student of "Socrates" and follow his philosophy. After the death of his teacher, he visited different states of mideterranean