



ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN

is also good in itself. He is trying to prove that justice is both instrumentally good and intrinsically good. In this essay I will look at certain factors Plato takes into account in forming his just society such as 1) the education, ~~the~~ 2) the guardians, 3) the family and 4) the noble lie. Ultimately I will show that more often than not, Plato's solutions are morally unacceptable.

- Plato talks in great detail of the education system he would have in his society largely in book three. The aims of this system would be to create respect for parents and gods, promote the values of friendship and promote courage. He largely wants to eliminate emotion from the students. Fear of death should be eliminated (Homer in particular is blamed for portraying the underworld as so miserable), grief should

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
<p>be eliminated and excessive laughter discouraged.</p> <p>It should be mentioned that this education system Plato has <del>said</del> set in place is only for his 'upper elite' class of guardians (which have been selected as children as superior (he doesn't go into depth on how the guardians are selected). He does not mention any form of education for the common people so it is fair to assume that they would not receive a proper education. The <del>purpose</del> purpose of this education system is to shape the children into the perfect rulers. Plato places huge emphasis on a moral education, so teaching right from wrong and how to be a just person. He thinks that it is more important to develop a moral person than an academic person. The curriculum of this education consists of music and maths. Plato views these as the truest forms of knowledge as there are</p>	

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
<p>exact answers that are not debatable or open to interpretation like other subjects such as <del>the</del> <sup>history</sup> or literature. However only music that displays the gods in a way Plato doesn't agree with should be censored. Plato only wants the gods shown as honest and unchanging as they are already perfect. They should also punish the wicked and reward the good people. Plato places great importance on the physical state of body. A simple diet should be followed and there should be minimal treatment (he clearly regards doctors as fairly useless). He believes that the body should be physically fit and this will improve the mind. Overall the education system is good as it creates competent, moral people who in all likelihood would make good rulers. There are certain drawbacks however. This education system is only available to a select few so the</p>	

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN

ordinary people get nothing. The elimination of emotion could also potentially be a problem - if you have a group of skilled warriors who don't feel anything this will end up doing more harm than good. The censorship of literature and music could also be seen as morally questionable. ~~These~~ All these factors could make Plato's education system potentially morally unacceptable.

- These guardians are expected to rule and protect the city. After they have received an education they are sorted into two groups. One group as soldiers to defend the city (presumably inferior) and another group as rulers (presumably superior). The guardians live in communal residences that are not privately owned and they are not given financial rewards for their service. At one point in the Republic Adeimantus asks Plato



ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
	<p>Why anyone would want to be a guardian if they are not getting paid and cannot get their own houses. What is supposed to make them happy. Cicero counters by saying that we only think material rewards make us happy when in reality they may be the things preventing us from reaching happiness. Material goods can obscure our vision from what is actually <del>happy</del> important in life. Plato states that simply performing a virtuous act should bring happiness to the guardians so that everyone living in this state can reach eudaimonia which is a state of being from living a virtuous life. This is again questionable. Adeimantus does have a point that there isn't really anything to motivate the guardians and Plato's response isn't very satisfactory. In reality the guardians would need some kind of reward or at least private property, otherwise</p>

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN

- their lives would be completely miserable, <sup>th</sup> and most likely not do their jobs properly as a result. This could be seen as morally unacceptable in Plato's Society.

- Moving on from this, Plato talks in great detail of how families and raising children should work. He is completely opposed to the 'nuclear family' and does not believe in traditional family units. The way he talks about reproducing sounds more like breeding animals than relationships between actual human beings. There is no emotion involved - he treats it as a sort of festival. Once a year there is a lottery (rigged to put the best men and the best women together so that their offspring will be superior). Once the children have been born they are removed from their parents





ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
<p>horrible. It goes without saying that the murder of young children who don't meet Plato's standards is definitely morally unacceptable. Also removing children from their parents or not having a close relationship with an adult is damaging for the child's development. These children are also more likely to be exposed to abuse or incest as they don't benefit from the instinct a parent has to protect their child. An expert child carer may be beneficial for the child but more likely than not it would be worse than just leaving the child with its parents. Almost everything Plato has to say about the family would be viewed as morally unacceptable.</p> <p>- Plato admits that people living in this city would likely not be happy with it. They would have no say over their own lives and few would accept this. It would not</p>	

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN

take long for the people to revolt against Plato and go back to the way things were before. To counter this Plato comes up with the 'noble' or 'patriotic' lie. He does seem ashamed to talk about this as one thing. Plato is very clear on is that you should never lie as it damages your soul. In this situation however he seems to think that it is necessary. He comes up with this story to tell the guardians that they dreamed the education they were given as children and they actually come from the centre of the earth with different coins, gold, silver and copper (presumably relating to the social class they have in society so that they accept their position without question). This gives divine origins to Plato's society meaning that people will not question their position and accept that this is the way that

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN
	<p>things are. He does not seem to <sup>consider</sup> <del>realize</del> that people may not believe this lie. Talking about lying to the people living in his society does make his society morally unacceptable as deception of the masses is generally a bad thing. A case could be made for Plato saying that the lie is for the greater good but few would be happy with this.</p>
	<p>Overall Plato's just society would generally be seen as a morally unacceptable place to live. Though it is good that he places such an emphasis on education and the correct rearing of children, in reality it would not have the desired effects. The education is only available to an upper elite and turns them into emotionless soldiers who all think in one way - Plato's way. Guardians are not paid or rewarded in any way, children are taken away from their families</p>

ENTER NUMBER OF QUESTION	DO NOT WRITE IN THIS MARGIN

and possibly killed and Plato lies to the people to get their cooperation. Ultimately the statement 'Plato understands the problems which must be faced in creating a just society, but his solutions are often morally unacceptable' is valid.