**Plato**

A. The Allegory of the Cave

1. People are like the slaves who see only shadows on the cave wall

2. If someone were to somehow be thrust outside the cave s/he might come to see that

the people inside the cave are living in illusion; thinking that the particular occurrences

of their lives represent ultimate reality, when they do not.

3. If s/he, out of compassion for the people inside the cave, were to go in and try to show

them that they were living in an illusion, they might not like it. In fact, they might kill him (like they did Socrates).

B. Plato’s political theory

1. Plato defines a “just” society to illustrate what a just life would be.

The soul of the person is a miniature version of the structure of society.

2. The good life cannot be lived apart from the state.

3. State should be built around a division of labor.

a. Philosopher-King

These people are motivated by the rational part of the soul and get the least in terms of economic gain. Those who rule should love wisdom above all.

b. Auxiliaries

These people follow the spirited part of the soul. They are ambitious, assertive, and desire honor. They are the police-soldiers of the state.

c. Producers

These people are governed by appetites, the largest of the three groups. They get more riches than anyone else but no political power.

4. The ideas society will eventually disintegrate into a democracy.

a. Instead of the country being run by those who are most competent.

b. Democracy will “promote to honor anyone who merely calls himself the people’s friend.”