

Plato's understanding of reality – The Cave

1	Method?	Rationalism – our senses deceive us
2	Analogy?	The Cave and its prisoners
3	Symbolism: Cave	Our senses create a false and limited understanding of reality but we cling to it
4	Symbolism: Escapee	Their freedom is challenging and met with hostility. They 'see' truth outside the Cave
5	Symbolism: the Sun	The highest Form of the Good that is the source of all truth

Plato – what is truth?

1	World of Forms?	These ideal concepts never change and are truth
2	The Particulars ?	Known empirically, change, physical, imperfect archetypes. They are 'pale imitations'
3	The Forms?	Eternal, immutable, non-physical, perfect and single. They are the one over many
4	Form of Good?	The ultimate Form that all Forms have in common. Traits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The origin of goodness Enables us to see Forms It the end in itself

Aristotle's understanding of reality

1	Method?	Empiricism – there are no innate ideas beyond experience
2	Method?	Everything changes all the time, but always has Four Causes that tell us the 'why' of objects and the truth of the change. Everything moves from potential to actual
3	Material Cause	The matter of the thing that changes, Change begins with matter
4	Formal Cause	The structure of an object. Nothing to do with Plato's Forms!
5	Efficient Cause	The primary source of the change that changes the material into its form. E.g. a carpenter
6	Final Cause	The purpose of the change. <i>Telos</i> also means purpose

Aristotle – what is truth?

1	Change	Everything in this world changes. The Prime Mover is the changeless source of change
2	Prime Mover – Traits?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eternal – will always exist Perfect – state of actuality Impassive – no emotion or experience
3	Analogy ?	The milk does not change, but draws the cat towards it, causing motion

Key Vocabulary

A posteriori	Knowledge learnt from experience
A priori	Knowledge learnt before experience/ from reason
Deductive	Arguments based on logical reasoning
Empiricism	A way of knowing via senses
Final cause	The purpose of something
Forms	Ideal concepts that exist in reality
Four causes	Aristotle's method of knowing things
Inductive	Arguments based on generalising experience
Immutable	Changeless
Perfect	State of completion and immutability
Philosophy	The love of knowledge
Prime mover	Aristotle's ultimate cause
Rationalism	The source of knowledge comes from reason
Reason	Using logical steps to reach a conclusion
Teleology	The end goal of something



This is the first unit in **Philosophy**. Plato and Aristotle are named as the founding fathers of philosophy. Aristotle was Plato's student but came to radically different conclusions about the source and method of knowledge and truth

A02 Comparisons....

- The Prime Mover and Form of Good
- Rationalism and empiricism
- What is truth about the world?

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2	Analogy?	
3	Symbolism: Cave	
4	Symbolism: Escapee	
5	Symbolism: the Sun	

Plato – what is truth?

1	World of Forms?	
2	The Particulars ?	
3	The Forms?	
4	Form of Good?	

Aristotle's understanding of reality

1	Method?	
2	Method?	
3	Material Cause	
4	Formal Cause	
5	Efficient Cause	
6	Final Cause	

Aristotle – what is truth?

1	Change	
2	Prime Mover – Traits?	
3	Analogy ?	

Key Vocabulary

A posteriori	
A priori	
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