

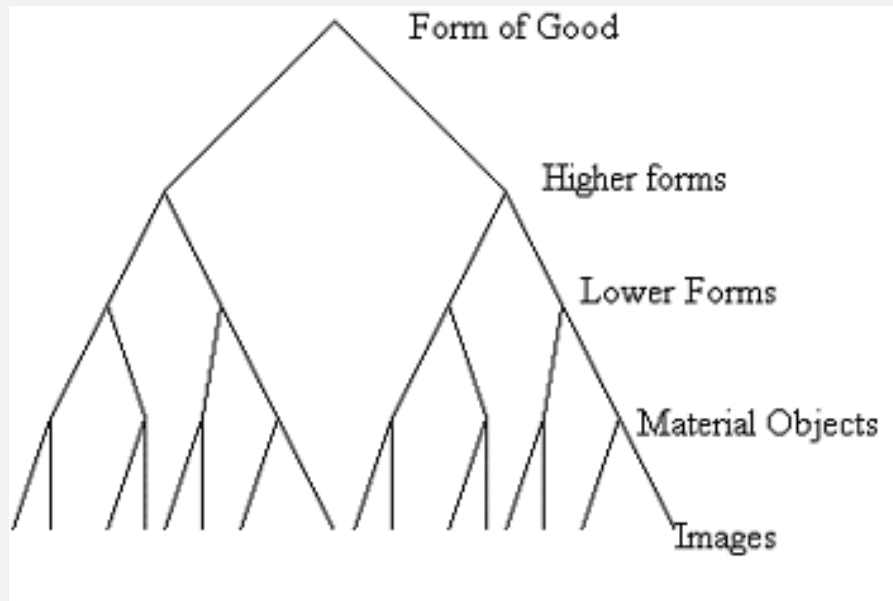
As you enter...

If you had to choose an
argument...

Would you side
FOR or AGAINST
Plato and why?



What can we know?



One and the many: We recognise the plurality (many) of things in the visible world as being in common because they each participate in the same Form (many things, one form). Ultimately everything leads back to one Form, the Form of the Good

Basically stated, the problem of the one and the many begins from the assumption that the universe is one thing. Because it is one thing, there must be one, unifying aspect behind everything. This aspect could be material, such as water, or air, or atoms. It could be an idea, such as number, or "mind." It could be divine, such as the Christian concept of God. The problem lies in what the unifying thing is



Past Learning

Introduction

Plato's reality

Plato's soul

Aristotle's reality

Aristotle's soul

Monism and Dualism



Present Learning

Scheme of Work:

Plato and Aristotle

Learning Objective:

To explore Plato's soul and understanding of reality



Chunk it: I can...

I can describe why Plato argues for a dualist soul

I can explain Plato's understanding of the soul

I can link this argument to his understanding of reality.

Key Words

- ☐ Plato
- ☐ Aristotle
- ☐ Dualism
- ☐ Empiricism
- ☐ Rationalism



Future Learning

Plato's understanding of reality and soul

Aristotle's understanding of reality and soul

The Monism and Dualism Debate

Assessment

Week 4: Progress Point
(_/12)

Week 6: End of unit
assessment (_/24)

Wider World

Alfred North Whitehead,
"The safest general
characterization of the
European philosophical
tradition is that it consists of
a series of footnotes to Plato"

Ancient Greek philosophy
met Judeo –Christian
influence to inform Christian
belief



Key Words for the Lesson

- **Dualism:** There are two aspects to humans
- **Ensouled:** A body with a separate soul
- **Immaterial:** Matterless
- **Soul:** the immaterial element of a creature



Key Question

**How can humans become philosophers
and attain knowledge of the Forms?**

What prevents us
from this
knowledge?

What needs to
happen to attain
the knowledge?

What
characteristics do
humans need to
do this?

Plato's Argument

1. Knowledge must be of the Forms. We can only have opinions about objects because they are mutable
2. Philosophers can attain knowledge (he believed Socrates had) and so there must be a way to transcend opinion
3. To do this, we must free ourselves from our reliance on physical senses of objects. Instead we must use reason to know the Forms
4. Everyone is able to recognise the Forms in their pale imitations (see slave argument)
5. Our knowledge of Forms is prior to experience and so we must have known the Forms before we were embodied
6. Our non-physical self had knowledge of Forms before our physical birth

Plato and Rationalism

- Plato presented arguments using reason to show that it is logical to argue for a soul
- The soul is always a necessary concept for the world of Forms to make sense
- Plato argued that we were in the world of Forms before birth and will return after death

Plato's Arguments

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graph TD; A[Plato's Arguments] --> B[Argument from affinity]; A --> C[Argument from recollection]; A --> D[Argument from opposites]
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Argument from affinity

Argument from recollection

Argument from opposites

We are going to develop each strand on this flowchart!
Expect theory and then a criticism for each argument

Argument from Affinity

Plato argues:

1. There are two kinds of existences: (a) the visible world that we perceive with our senses, which is human, mortal, composite (made up of lots of parts), and always changing, and (b) the invisible world of Forms that we can access solely with our minds, which is divine, deathless, non-composite, and always the same.
2. The soul is more like world (b), whereas the body is more like world (a)
3. Therefore, the soul must be:
 - Immaterial, because like the Forms you cannot see it
 - Unchanging, because like the Forms, it is not physical and so does not change and decay
 - Incomposite, because then it would decay and change
 - Immortal, because it is the essence of life (it gives life) and so can't die. Plus it is unchanging and cannot decay

Criticism of Plato's argument from Affinity

- Within the *Phaedo*, other characters criticise this argument
- Simmias says that harmony created by a musical instrument has similar characteristics to the Forms (invisible), it will be destroyed when the instrument is. The soul is the same
- Cebes says that the soul may outlast several bodies and then die. Just like a man may outlast several cloaks before dying

Immaterial,
Unchanging,
Incomposite,
Immortal

Argument from Opposites

1. Socrates (Plato) says that every quality comes into existence, or depends on its existence, from its opposite
2. For example, something is 'big' because there are things which are smaller than it. There would be no big without small and vice versa
3. Life comes from death and death comes from life and this is an endless chain of birth and rebirth
4. Therefore, your life comes from your death and your death comes from your life and so on
5. Therefore, it must be that there is a part of you (the true you) which carries on after the death of your body
6. This is the soul

Criticism of Plato's argument from opposites

- What kind of words are hot/cold, big/small, happy/sad?
- These are all adjectives
- It makes sense to talk about adjectives as being relative terms and therefore requiring an opposite for its existence – i.e. happiness relies on sadness, otherwise there would be no such thing as happiness
- But what kind of words are life and death?
- These are nouns
- A criticism is that whilst his argument from opposites may work for adjectives it does not for nouns. For example a car does not rely on an opposite for its existence (non-car? no car?).
- This is the same for life and death

Argument from recollection

- Why does Plato's theory that true knowledge comes from the Forms require the existence of a soul?
- We can never see true, universal Beauty, Justice, Circle in the visible realm. However, we are able to recognise beauty, justice and circlesness in the things we see
- Therefore, we must have some prior knowledge of true Beauty, Justice, Circle.
- This is because our souls existed before the birth of our physical bodies, and witnessed the Forms
- Therefore, for Plato, knowledge is merely a recollection of what our souls have seen in the world of the Forms
- In *Meno*, Plato demonstrates this
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95GjK0p582g>
- The same can be said for our knowledge of things like Beauty, Justice and Circle

Criticism of Plato's argument from recollection

- It is quite easy to make it look as though someone is drawing on prior knowledge by asking the right questions and giving the right guidance
- Socrates asks leading questions – they are only yes/no questions and the answers are in Socrates' questions

Making Links

Plato's Arguments

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graph TD; A[Plato's Arguments] --> B[Argument from affinity]; A --> C[Argument from recollection]; A --> D[Argument from opposites];
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Argument from affinity

Argument from recollection

Argument from opposites

- Annotate each flowchart with links to the theory of Forms and the Cave.
- How does Plato's theory of soul relate to his understanding of reality?
- Does the theory of soul strengthen his theory of knowledge? Why

Review

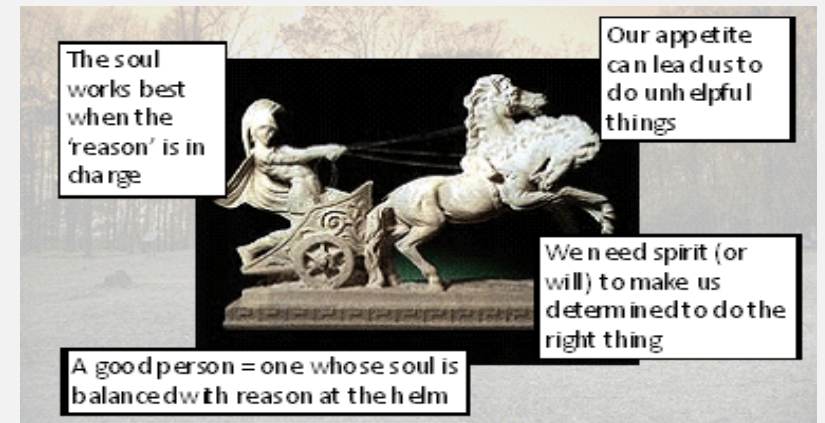
What is Plato's soul? The Charioteer

Pages 40-42

- Plato believes in a tripartite soul – a soul with three elements. *Psyche* is another word for soul. His theory is **dualist**
- The soul is made up of apparent parts or aspects: Appetite, Spirit and Reason
- In a philosopher, reason controls spirit and appetites in order to be wise
- He uses the metaphor of a charioteer controlling two horses. The three part soul (tripartite)
- If we let our appetites control us we may do something silly and over-indulge (e.g. eat a whole cake rather than one piece)
- If we let our spirit control us we may over-react or say something inappropriate (e.g. answering back to a teacher!)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VcmQUJkubno>



Finding your Voice

- OCR want to know your response to theory, as well as other scholars' responses
- Having a voice requires you to choose a side and to be able to defend it.
- You don't need to know everything, you just need to raise good questions and implications about a theory



Evaluating Plato

What is he addressing? What is at stake?	Which parts of the theory are strong?	Which parts are weak?	What are the implications of the theory?	Possible lines of argument?

- *Plato's theory of the Forms has implications such as.... These are defensible/problematic because...*
- *One particularly strong/weak point of Plato's argument is.... Because...*
- *Plato endeavoured to show that.... He was successful/unsuccessful at....*
- *Plato causes contention by arguing for....*