Study Questions
Republic, Book I

1) Consider the opening of the dialogue. What significance do you attribute to the fact that Socrates has come down from Athens to the Piraeus to pay his devotions to the new goddess (Bendis) and to observe the festival in her honor?

2) What might we conclude about the relationship of the philosopher to politics from Socrates initial encounter with Polemarchus (327b-28b)?

3) What does Cephalus reveal to us about conventional Greek piety and its relationship to justice (328b-31d)?

4) What definition of justice does Polemarchus seek to defend? How does Socrates alter Polemarchus's conclusions about justice (331d-36a)?

5) What definition of justice does Thrasymachus seek to defend? How does Socrates defeat this notion of justice (338c-50d)?

6) How does this opening book of the dialogue end? What conclusions might we draw about philosophy and its relation to politics from the ending?