

Reading Questions for Book VIII of the *Republic*

Socrates says, “it is necessary that there also be as many forms of human characters as there are forms of regimes.” (543d) Identify the forms of regimes and corresponding characters. Keep in mind the divisions of the soul Socrates established earlier in the text.

Write down your thoughts about why Socrates places the democratic regime at the second to last position on the list.

Why does Socrates refer to the regimes other than aristocracy as diseased?

It is the argument of Book VIII that democracy and its prioritizing of equality are the breeding ground for tyranny. How does the principle of equality and freedom protect the budding tyrant in a democracy?

Briefly speculate about why Socrates uses the metaphor of bees in Book VIII.