

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION

The origins of educational philosophy

AIMS OF THE SESSION

To evaluate the impact of early Greek philosophers on our understanding of education

To consider the continuing relevance of their ideas on our own understanding of education

TASK

What do you understand about the work of the Greek philosophers?

What were the key principles of their work?

What links can you make between the ideas of the philosophers in question and today's educational practice?



EDUCATION IN ATHENS

Education very much divided along gender lines as well as according to social status

The significance of early education

Balance between body and soul

3 key areas of study

1. Grammata
2. Music
3. Physical education



BACKGROUND

Basic education completed by 16.

The role of the Sophists

Compulsory military service for 2 years from the age of 18



KEY PHILOSOPHERS WE ARE CONSIDERING

Socrates

Plato

Aristotle



SOCRATES (470-399 B.C.)

The father of modern philosophy

None of his philosophies exist in writing

His philosophy was a reaction against the Sophists

Sophists causes tension with their teaching

"Strong minds discuss ideas,
average minds discuss events, weak
minds discuss people."

Socrates



SOCRATES

Personal life – very poor

Had great physical power
and was a highly
disciplined person

Aimed to love a virtuous
life

Moral development of
character a key interest of
his



ETHICS

Believed in definite right and
wrong

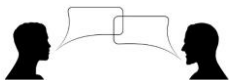
It is for society to determine what
is right and wrong and for
people to apply this in their
everyday lives

Also concerned with justice and
fairness

He worked to find principles by
which people could lead their
lives as well as the standards to
lead a 'good' life



THE SOCRATIC METHOD



Distinctive style and based on dialogue – no lecturing

The role of questions – cannot be an expert if you do not have the answers

Developed his own philosophy using this method

Encouraged people to question everything

Recognise the learning that the student has

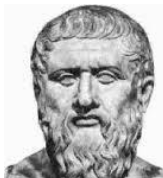
PLATO (428-348 B.C.)

Wrote a number of dialogues with Socrates as the main voice

Established the Academy in 387 B.C.

Believed in two types of knowledge

1. Empirical knowledge – gained from the senses
2. Innate knowledge – gained through the mind

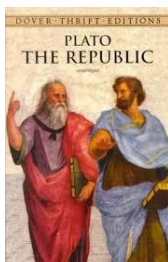


PLATO'S VISION

Plato very much an idealist

The Republic outlines his vision of an education system

The ideal system ruled by the Guardians, those lesser in society (slaves, artisans, merchants) know their place



RULER EDUCATION

Theory of forms

How do we make comparative judgements?

The Realm of Forms & Realm of the Souls

The Allegory of the Cave

Mathematics & philosophy allows seeing beyond physical world – Form of the Good



WHAT ABOUT THE REST?...

Appropriate education

A little bit of indoctrination...

A caste system

No favouritism

Stability is the key



BLUE PILL OR RED PILL?

Which would you choose

Why?



Make your choice

Blue pill - 'I was happier
as I was thank you very
much. Nothing to see
here, everything is fine '

Red pill - 'bring it on
sunshine, the truth is out
there let's go get it. Viva
la resistance!!!'

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PLATO'S ALLEGORY OF THE CAVE

Watch [this](#) video

To what extent do you view
education today as similar
to Plato's allegory?



ARISTOTLE (384 – 322 B.C.)

Student of Plato – came to the Academy in
367 B.C.

Credited as being linked to the development
of realism

Founded the Lyceum – his school of natural
sciences

Link between education and morality – we
need to build habits to become both morally
and intellectually virtuous



KNOWLEDGE VERSUS BELIEF

The difference between them is that knowledge is the beginning of dialectical reasoning

If a judgement is not based on reason then there can be flaws

If you have knowledge then you do not make mistakes

We need to be aware of our own failings as individuals so that we are aware of our potential for making mistakes.



THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION



Man is a rational animal and gains skills and knowledge through education

A fulfilled person is an educated person

Self-realisation is essential and education is critical for this

School should cultivate rationality and education should be concerned with disciplined inquiry

RESPONSIBILITY FOR EDUCATION



Early education is the responsibility of parents as well as moral development

Further education is the responsibility of the state

THE NATURE OF LEARNING

Learning is achieved through practice and habituation

Balance of theoretical and practical

Episteme, Techne and Phronesis



HOW LEARNING WAS TO BE ORGANISED

Men of noble intent

No education provided for women or slaves

The governing class and the governed class

Learning through doing

Education must begin with the care of the body

Up until age of 5 children should be allowed to play and grow

Age range – 0-7, 7-14, 14-21

Music and culture



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