. Why do you think the Form of the "Good" is considered by Plato to be the ultimate illuminating idea that helps understand truth and reality?

I think that Plato's view of how the Form of the Good that helps us with truth and reality is that, searching for the good and the truth helps us fulfill happiness and order into our lives, but the truth and reality is above everything which means its above happiness because even things that can make people happy aren't always good. I think there is a universal truth because there is good and if we didn't have that universal truth, we probably wouldn't understand what good is.

2. Recount and explain Plato's Allegory of the Cave. How does it relate to knowledge? How does it relate to levels of reality?

How this allegory relates to knowledge is that the cave represents the men's knowledge of what they knew and the shadows of people represent what they think is true and they haven't seen anything outside of the cave and that is all they have known. They believe that the cave is the only truth and knowledge, but a man goes outside the cave and realizes that there is actually a different reality and truth that is actually what is true and the cave was the distorted truth that the other men were believing. The cave is supposed to be our reality of how much we can see or what choose to accept is truth but outside the cave is the person who looks to share what is actually true with others and realizes the actual reality and truth.

3. Explain in your own words the levels of reality represented by Plato's divided line.

The divided line is a metaphorical model for understanding the levels of reality and knowledge. There are two main sections called the visible realm and the intelligible realm. The visible realm is the realm of objects and reflections that we can see around us in the physical world. We can also interact with the physical objects that we see and that exist in our physical world.

The intelligible realm is divided into two subsections, which is the mathematical concepts and forms which is grasped through season and intuition, this is the highest level of reality and can only be grasped through philosophical contemplation and insight.

Aristotle, "Individual Substance" (*Categories*) – pp. 76-79

1. In your own words and referencing the reading, explain the main point Aristotle makes in describing a primary, basic, "substance" as the fundamental basis of reality.

2. What does Aristotle mean when he says that a substance cannot be "said of" or "said in" a subject? Look up the concept of a "predicate" online. How might you rephrase Aristotle's point by saying a substance can never be a predicate?

3. Why do you think Aristotle picks out primary substance as the basic building block of reality, and not the parts, or atoms, or matter, or any other smaller thing that might make up a substance?

Aristotle, “Four Types of Explanation” *(Physics)* – pp. 413-415

1. List and explain in your own words the four main reasons (sometimes called "causes") for why a substance is what it is according to Aristotle.

Aristotle believed that everything that is in the world could be categorized or be named different things. Aristotle says that a substance exists independently, and it is the subject of predication for example a cat would be called a substance because it exists independently, and it has size, shape, color, and temperament but these are all just the attributes that make a cat what a cat is.

2. Take the example of a table. How would you explain why a table is what it is, in terms of the four main types of explanation according to Aristotle.

A table would be a substance because it exists by itself, and it has its own attributes that make a table what it is just like the cat. It has color, shape, size, and it can be broken down into something else and it functions like a table, you put things on it, or sit at it but there are other things that we have used as a table that we wouldn’t call a table but it became like a table such as a persons back, let’s say there wasn’t a table around and you needed to be resourceful and find something to write on, you would maybe write on your leg or a chair and use that as a function of a table but its not.

3. What does Aristotle say about the fourth cause of things, and how it even exists in nature? How does nature show this cause? Do you agree or disagree that there is a true purposefulness in nature? Why?

There is the material cause, formal cause, efficient cause, and the final cause. The final cause is when the purpose of something ends, and the existence of that thing comes to an end. Aristotle not only believed that humans have purpose, but nature has purpose and it comes to an end as well. Nature has a goal that it fulfills and then it ends, it is predictable, and it follows a cycle. It reaches its full potential and when it finally reaches its goal it ends. I think that nature does have a purpose because it is what helps keep things moving and it continues the cycle of creating more life. I love nature and in a sense we are also part of nature and we live and rely off of other living things to survive just like everything else does.