M.A. Khalidi

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CS 201: SAMPLE QUIZ

Part I. Choose TWO out of three (5 points each).

1. "An Athenian is always an innovator, quick to form a resolution and quick at carrying it out. You on the other hand, are good at keeping things as they are..."

Which polis is being contrasted with Athens here? What is the speaker's motive behind making this unfavorable comparison?

2. "We may therefore find justice on a larger scale in the larger entity, and so easier to recognize. I accordingly propose that we start our inquiry with the community, and then proceed to the individual and see if we can find in the conformation of the smaller entity anything similar to what we have found in the larger."

Who is speaking here? What assumptions is he making about justice and the community?

3. "Then what do you think would happen... if he went back to sit in his old seat in the cave? ... they would say that his visit to the upper world had ruined his sight, and that the ascent was not worth even attempting. And if anyone tried to release them and lead them up, they would kill him if they could lay hands on him."

What does the cave symbolize in this simile? What about the visit to the upper world?

Part II. Choose ONE out of two (5 points for part (a); 10 points for part (b)).

4. "Quantity and quality are therefore more easily produced when a man specializes appropriately on a single job for which he is naturally fitted, and neglects all others."

(a) Who is speaking here? Explain briefly what he means by this statement.

(b) Explain how this claim influences his subsequent account of the just state.

5. "... if any one of you stands his ground when he can see how we administer justice and the rest of our public organization, we hold that by so doing he has in fact undertaken to do anything that we tell him..."

(a) Who is speaking here (i.e. who is "we")? What is the context?

(b) Explain the point being made here and say how it features in the larger argument.