

Probable topics for Study for Aristotle's *Poetics* (Art of Poetry)

Why, do you think, are poets not allowed in Plato's Republic?

How would you tackle the question of *mimesis* or 'imitation' in poetry with respect to Plato and Aristotle? Does Aristotle accept the idea of divine inspiration for poets?

Is 'tragedy' representative of all poetry, as far as Aristotle is concerned?

Aristotle's *Poetics* is a descriptive work and not a prescriptive one. – Give reasons in support of this statement.

What are the main features of a tragedy, according to Aristotle?

How does *anagnorisis* and *peripeteia* add to the complexity of a plot according to Aristotle?

What is *catharsis* of emotions? Do you think *catharsis* is a wholly social function of a tragedy? Is this perspective, is it correct to say that *catharsis* validates the presence of poets in a society, even Plato's Republic? Discuss with adequate illustrations.

How, do you think, Aristotle's *Poetics* added to the development of literary criticism in the classical world (with respect to Horace and Longinus) as well as the modern world (with respect to Philip Sidney)?

References

Lucas, F. L., *Tragedy*

Durant, Will., *The Story of Philosophy*

Grube, G.M.A., *The Greek and Roman Critics*

Wimsatt, William K. and Brooks, Cleanth., *Literary Criticism: A Short History*