

### **1. How does The Allegory of the Cave illustrate Plato's view of the physical world?**

In Plato's view, the dark cave represents the world in which we live in, and the incomplete truths in that world, and in contrast to us being in the world since birth, the people chained there have been there almost as long. "let me show in a figure how far our nature is enlightened or unenlightened: --Behold! human beings living in an underground den, a cave which has a mouth open towards the light and reaching all along the den; here they have been from their childhood"

### **2. According to Plato, how can we find the "true essence" of an object?**

It is only when we get into the light and get used to it that we see the true essence of an object and not think that our old "truths" are the real ones. "but that now, when he is approaching nearer to being and his eye is turned towards more real existence, he has a clearer vision, -what will be his reply? And you may further imagine that his instructor is pointing to the objects as they pass and requiring him to name them, -- will he not be confused? Will he not think that the shadows which he formerly saw are truer than the objects which are now shown to him?"

### **3. In this story how important is light?**

Light here might be the most important thing in this whole allegory for it stands for knowledge and enlightenment. "When any of them is liberated and compelled suddenly to stand up and turn his neck round and walk and look towards the light, he will suffer sharp pains; the glare will distress him, and he will be unable to see the realities of which in his former state he had seen the shadows" and that is what happens if you present new knowledge that questions your "real" views

### **4. How does the story describe the process of acquiring knowledge?**

He describes it as a step-by-step process because if you do it all at once you will surely not believe the answer or think that it might be too good to be true and that's as stated from "And now look again" to "He will need to get used to the sight of the upper world. And first he will see the shadows best, next the reflections of men and other objects in the water, and then the objects themselves; then he will gaze upon the light of the moon and the stars and the spangled heaven; and he will see the sky and the stars by night better than the sun or the light of the sun by day?"

### **5. After reading this story, how do you think Plato would describe "happiness?"**

I believe that happiness in Plato's eyes would be in living outside the cave or in enlightenment rather than being chained up inside the cave or enlightenment which is why he said the whole story in the first place. Otherwise, he would have just kept it within for its irrelevance.

**6. Who are the “people chained in the cave?”**

The people chained in the cave are supposed to represent us or humans in general, as stated here “You have shown me a strange image, and they are strange prisoners. Like ourselves, I replied...”

**7. According to The Allegory of the Cave, how should the process of education be approached?**

According to the allegory the process of education should be in a stage like manor, as stated here “And suppose once more, that he is reluctantly dragged up a steep and rugged incline, and held fast until he's forced into the presence of the sun itself, is he not likely to be pained and irritated?”

**8. According to The Allegory of the Cave, what is the main task of the philosopher?**

The main task of a philosopher is to be a lover of wisdom, as stated in the first paragraph and demonstrated by what Socrates told Glaucon (he told him the Allegory of the cave).

**9. How does Plato's The Allegory of the Cave relate to science and scientific research?**

The way this Allegory relates to scientific research is that it encourages people to leave their comfort zone to discover new points of view they never thought were possible beforehand, which is what you need today to advance further with scientific research.

“And now look again, and see what will naturally follow if the prisoners are released and disabused of their error. At first, when any of them is liberated and compelled suddenly to stand up and turn his neck round and walk and look towards the light, he will suffer sharp pains; the glare will distress him, and he will be unable to see the realities of which in his former state he had seen the shadows; and then conceive someone saying to him, that what he saw before was an illusion, but that now, when he is approaching nearer to being and his eye is turned towards more real existence, he has a clearer vision, -what will be his reply? And you may further imagine that his instructor is pointing to the objects as they pass and requiring him to name them, -- will he not be confused? Will he not think that the shadows which he formerly saw are truer than the objects which are now shown to him?”

**10. What connection can you make between The Allegory of the Cave and life today?**

The media today could be so deceptive and manipulate the whole truth so in turn most people would be like the people chained in the cave and think that the whole truth is what's given to them but it is truly otherwise. This answer is taken from the allegory as a whole.