

Reading Assignment 7: Plato's Theory of Forms

REQUIRED READINGS Plato 1997. Book VII. Lines 514 - 530d.

- QUESTIONS**
1. What do the prison dwelling and area above the cave respectively symbolize?
 2. Explain in no more than a paragraph why Plato thinks mathematicians ought not speak of “applying” or “squaring” when proving geometric theorems.
 3. What mathematical subjects does Socrates advocate that all rulers ought to study, and in which order ought they be studied?

- REFERENCES**
- [1] Plato. “Republic”. In: *Complete works*. Ed. by J. M. Cooper and D. S. Hutchinson. Trans. by G. M. A. Grube and C. D. C. Reeve. Hackett Publishing, 1997, pp. 971–1223.