

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. What does Plato find so dangerous about art in books II and III of the *Republic* thus requiring the need for censorship of the poets, painters, and the writers of fiction?
2. What is Plato's theory explained in Book X of the *Republic* that art is *mimēsis*? Why is art thus "thrice removed from the truth" according to Plato?
3. What is Plato's indictment of the poet in the *Ion*? What does Socrates mean when he suggests that what is going on in poetry is somewhat similar to what happens with that "stone of Heraclea," otherwise known as a magnet?
4. How does Aristotle in the *Poetics* respond to Plato's indictment of the arts? What value does Aristotle find, contrary to Plato, in *mimēsis*?
5. What are three different ways of understanding Aristotle's famous claim that the final cause or purpose of Greek tragedy lies in a catharsis of pity and fear? How is it that Aristotle finds in poetry (Greek tragedy) a higher philosophical value than in history?