



Read the biography passage carefully. Then answer each question below in complete sentences.

Look for key facts about the person's early life, achievements, and impact. Use details from the passage to support your answers.

Plato: The Mind Who Shaped Western Thought



Imagine a mind so powerful it shaped how people think about the world for thousands of years! That was Plato, one of ancient Greece's most famous philosophers, whose ideas still echo today.

Born into a wealthy Athenian family around 428 BCE, Plato grew up during a time of great change. He became a devoted student of Socrates, learning to question everything and seek deeper truths about justice and virtue.

Plato's most significant achievement was founding the Academy in Athens, often considered the first institution of higher learning in the Western world. There, he taught subjects like mathematics and philosophy. He also wrote many philosophical dialogues, where characters debated profound ideas. His most famous work, **The Republic**, explores what an ideal society and government might look like, introducing concepts like the "philosopher-king" and the Allegory of the Cave.

A major challenge for Plato was the execution of his beloved teacher, Socrates, by the Athenian government. This event deeply affected him, making him wary of democracy. He believed only wise, educated leaders should govern. His attempts to advise rulers in Sicily were largely unsuccessful, reinforcing his focus on philosophical education.

Plato's legacy is immense. His writings introduced fundamental concepts to Western philosophy, influencing thinkers for centuries. The Academy continued for over 900 years,



spreading his ideas. He taught us the importance of asking big questions and striving for a better world.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

(1) Where did Plato found his famous school, the Academy?

- A Sparta B Rome C Athens D Egypt

(2) Plato became a devoted student of the philosopher _____.

— continue writing on the lines below

(3) In the passage, what does the word "profound" most closely mean?

- A simple and easy to understand B very deep and important
 C loud and noisy D old and forgotten

(4) Why do you think Plato was so deeply affected by the execution of Socrates and became wary of democracy? Use details from the passage to support your answer.

(5) How has Plato's work and the Academy changed the world, and what can we learn from his life today?



