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LESSON I: The Republic, Book 1.1-13

SYNOPSIS

Book 1.1-13 Preface

fr. Obligations of the individual to the state

fr. Importance of both experience and theoretical education

2-12 Anti-Epicureanism: refuting arguments against political engagement

13 Cicero's experience and learning as qualifications for writing

I. THOUGHT QUESTION:

Which do you think is more important preparation for writing political philosophy, experience or education?

II. COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS:

1. What overcomes all enticements of pleasure and ease?

2. What is moral excellence and what is it not?

3. What is the most important use of moral excellence?

4. Why is law superior to philosophy?

5. Why are statesmen superior to philosophers?

6. What causes men to be eager to make human life better and safer?

12. What does Cicero state is his goal in writing *De Re Publica*?

13. Why does Cicero believe that classical philosophers who did not hold office perform an important public function?

14. What human virtue does Cicero believe most closely approaches the divine?

15. Why does Cicero believe he should be considered an authority on his topic?
