θέσις (thesis)
philosophic question

is marriage a good thing?

should one always keep an oath?

ὑπόθεσις (hypothesis)
question limited by place, time, characters, etc.

should the elderly Cato marry a young woman?

should the son keep his oath
to marry the pirate-king's daughter?

θέσις (thesis)
philosophic question

    what is justice?

    what is the best kind of city?

ὑπόθεσις (hypothesis)
question limited by place, time, characters, etc.

    are the Romans just?

    why is Rome the best city?

The Spheres

What spheres appear in the *Republic*?

Where did they come from? Where are they now?

What do they symbolize about:
- theory vs practice vs poetics?
- political theory vs statecraft?
- justice?

Do they tie in with later parts of the *Republic*?

Plato vs Cicero

Compare and contrast Plato's *Republic* and Cicero's *Republic.*

What does each have to say about justice?

Carneades on Justice

Compare and contrast Plato's *Republic* and Cicero's *Republic.*

What does each have to say about justice?

Roman History

Why does Cicero begin an exposition of Roman history from the beginning of the ctiy?

How do the Romans get their women?
Is it just?
Is there a relationship between family and state?

Trace the evolution/degeneration
of the perfect state (that is, Rome).

The *Somnium Scipionis* (Dream of Scipio)

What is Scipio's dream?

How does Scipio's bizarre dream relate
to the rest of the *Republic*?

Is there anything comparable in Plato?

Cicero's *Laws*

What is the basic premise of the *Laws*?

Explain the allegory of the Marian oak tree.
How can poets bestow immortality on trees?
What does the oak symbolize in the *Laws*?
Does the oak relate to Platonic symbolism?

What is law, according to Cicero?

What are the best laws?

Cicero's *Laws*

What is natural law?
What is civil law?

What laws exist by nature? By convention?

Cicero's *Laws:* specific details

Which country should an immigrant love:
his country of origin, or his adopted country?

How does the state proposed in book 3 function?
Could it operate as a real city, or is it a utopia?

What's the difference between νόμος and *lex*?