

1) *Reconstruct Aristotle's argument for the best form of government and then provide two reasons for which, you think, Aristotle's argument is different from that of Plato on the same issue (the best form of government).*

This is an exercise of comparing two thinkers. If we add your voice, then we have three minds conversing with each other as part of this game. Hence, the exercise is more complex. Part of the exercise is that you stage (make possible) the conversation of the two philosophers. To criticize does not mean only to say 'I disagree.' It also means to be able to mediate conversations where people agree/disagree with each other in different ways and degrees (a messy situation, not as clear cut as in saying 'I disagree, X is wrong'). For a successful staging of the encounter of different conceptions intense familiarization with both positions (in this case, Plato and Aristotle) is required, as well as a nuanced and subtle understanding of the similarities and differences between different thinkers and their arguments.

Hence, for a good essay you need to:

- (i) To immerse yourself as deeply as you can in the thinking of both Plato and Aristotle, that is, to understand them, in a way, better than they understood themselves, without giving up the capacity to critically judge them.
- (ii) Part of the task is to show what Aristotle means by the 'best' or 'ideal' political regime;
- (iii) Then, taking part (ii) as a guide, you need to provide two reasons for which Aristotle does not accept Plato's argument for the best political regime. Again, the trick here is to identify the basic premises of their arguments and see where the differences are.