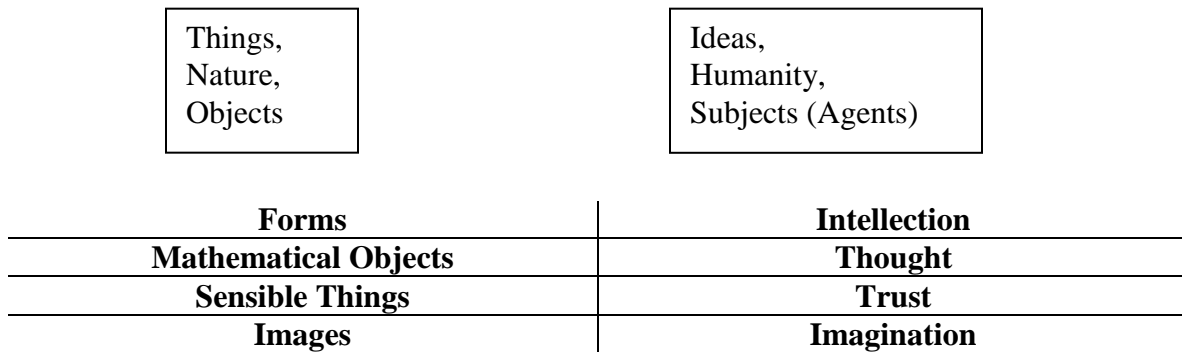


Plato's Divided Line, an Example

An open letter to Dr. David Roochnik, Boston University
from Robert Canright

Dr. Roochnik,

I very much enjoyed your Teaching Company course, "Plato's *Republic*." I will recommend the course to everyone. I would like to offer a concrete example to the excellent diagram you provided us on the "divided line" from Book 6 of *The Republic*. Below is a diagram you suggested:



Here is a concrete example based upon television. It might benefit some students.

<p>Forms: Maxwell's Equations provide the understanding of electro-magnetism empowering us to create radio and TV.</p>	<p>Intellection: Maxwell's Equations were not derived mechanistically from other equations, but developed by intellect.</p>
<p>Mathematical Objects: The recording and broadcasting equipment was designed using equations from physics and engineering. Equation parameters determine the color being recorded and the broadcast frequency bandwidth.</p>	<p>Thought: Engineers and physicists develop concrete engineering equations used to design recording and broadcast equipment and electronics. By thought they move from the ideal of Maxwell's equations to products.</p>
<p>Sensible Things: A television studio with cameras, microphones, electronics, and recording & broadcasting equipment</p>	<p>Trust: The actors trust the equipment will work when they rehearse for a show and then perform for the cameras.</p>
<p>Images: The televisions in homes reproduce the images of the actors.</p>	<p>Imagination: The television audience feels suspense or humor in front of a TV as though they were viewing a live performance.</p>