In Plato's Republic, Socrates seeks to show that the just are always more successful or "happy" (eudaimôn) than the unjust, but it is far from clear how he understands success (eudaimonia). This essay seeks clarity by uncovering how Socrates considers three different conceptions of success, how he argues against two of them, and why he does not make more explicit the conception that he does not reject. The upshots include not only a fresh account of how we should understand the Republic's main argument but also an intriguing Platonic argument against some popular views of well-being.

For more information, please contact the Philosophy Department at 523-2648.