

Contents

List of Illustrations **viii**

Introduction **ix**

1 Humans and beasts: understanding ourselves **1**

2 Why do we read Plato's *Republic*? **18**

3 The happy life, ancient and modern **36**

4 Reason, knowledge and scepticism **55**

5 Logic and reality **75**

6 When did it all begin? (and what is it anyway?) **94**

Timeline **113**

Further Reading **115**

Notes **117**

Index **121**