



Name: _____ Date: _____

Virtue is the path to _____, according to St. Thomas Aquinas.

St. Thomas thinks that such deep and lasting happiness is really possible for us, and that, if we're to get there, it's extremely important for us to _____ about what true happiness is and then to acquire the _____ that will enable us to live in such a way as to obtain it.

What many people today think morality is about	What St. Thomas Aquinas thinks morality is about

_____ are an extremely important part of this picture. They're an important part of our moral development because they are what make it possible to move towards our true _____ and to act well in its pursuit.

What Aquinas means by happiness
Happiness IS NOT:
Happiness: A state, or even better, the _____ of living a human life well, by which we attain what is truly _____ for us.

Aquinas thinks that the moral life is about _____ what is truly good for us, and then aiming at the right ends, doing the right sorts of things, so as to move towards our true good.

What about our experience of inner conflict?

Problem: Aquinas would say that we have inherited _____ passions and desires as a result of the fall of our first parents. . . We live with a kind of moral _____ to the truth about God and about ourselves and about what is truly good.

Solution: . . .Clear away the fog and obscurity that blinds our minds, and then acquire the good habits and _____. . . so that we can govern our lives according to what our _____ judges best, so that our minds can direct us toward what is truly _____.

False Candidates for True Happiness:

(None of these are worthy of being our _____.)

The Final End

There is only one thing that can fully satisfy us: _____.

Attaining to God: this is our final end, the most important _____ for a human life.

. . .We grow in the life of virtue, moving towards God through the ups and downs of this world, and by God's _____ we hope to experience it in full in the life of _____ where we will know and love God perfectly.

Endowed with these virtues, the greatest possible happiness is really possible to us. That's why _____ is the path to happiness.

Comprehension question: Which of the "false candidates for true happiness" do you think most people are tempted to make their goal in life? How could you explain to someone why it cannot bring them lasting happiness?