



Name: _____

Date: _____

Words to know:

contingent (*something that occurs or exists but did not have to*), pell-mell (*in a confused or disorderly manner*), ontological (*according to something's being*), determinism (*the belief that absolutely everything is determined by God in a way that does not account for chance or free will*)

St. Thomas Aquinas teaches that just as God is origin and source of all things as _____, He also cares for all things, and this is called God's _____.

When Aquinas speaks of providence in God, he says that it pertains to the _____ of God, who is the creator of all things.

...Aquinas holds that creation is characterized by _____. And more specifically, all things come forth from God according to an ordered _____, and all things are ordered back to God as their ultimate _____.

PROVIDENCE:

The _____ in the mind of God by which creation _____ from and _____ to Him.

Objection 1: It might seem that the world is governed by _____, not a Divine plan. . . However, hiding behind this objection are two mistakes:

Mistake	St. Thomas' Clarification
1. Creation is only something that happened at one point in time.	<p>ONTOLOGICAL DEPENDENCE:</p> <p>Creation is not simply a beginning point in time. . . Creation is an ongoing relation of radical ontological _____.</p> <p>To be a creature means to receive _____, to be caused, to participate in existence at every moment.</p>
2. God causes things in the world the same way that _____ cause things in the world.	<p>As pure BEING, God simply _____, absolutely.</p> <p>He is the first cause. God Himself creates and respects created causes.</p> <p>God can bring things about in the world _____ the normal activity of creatures who are secondary causes in the world.</p>

Objection 2: What about all the things in the world that do seem to happen by chance? Doesn't Aquinas' claim about divine providence do away with this?

St. Thomas' Answer: GOD IS THE CAUSE OF ALL THAT IS

Because God is the _____ of all that is, there's no possibility that some outside cause could _____ from outside of what God has planned.

Why do we see chance events in the world?

There is neither pure _____ (sheer randomness) nor pure determinism.

Rather there are different kinds of causes caused by God:

1. Necessary causes (per se causes): Bring about a particular result _____
2. Per *Accidens* Causes: Intersecting lines of _____ that bring about a result that is harder to predict.
3. _____ Causes: Causes that are not purely _____. God can cause things to be contingent causes and from within the universe (although not contingent to Him.)

Objection 2: What about human freedom?

St. Thomas' Answer: A GENUINELY CONTINGENT CAUSE

Human freedom is a genuinely contingent _____ and yet, God can move man's will _____ according to His plan.

God's plan encompasses everything in the world, even things that happen truly by

_____ or by acts of human _____.

Comprehension questions:

1. What are some things that have happened in your life that made you aware of God's providential guidance?
2. What are some things that have happened that seemed random or confusing?