



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Words to know:**contradiction (*two things that can't both be true*)

**Modern Understanding of Freedom:** To \_\_\_\_\_ without constraint; to opt for whatever I determine, to choose between \_\_\_\_\_.

**St. Thomas Aquinas' View of Freedom:** "In every choice we make we're aiming at something we regard as \_\_\_\_\_. If we don't regard something as good in at least some respect, we'll never \_\_\_\_\_ it."

**Faculty of Desire:** Our will, therefore, is not primarily a faculty of choosing or opting between contraries. \_\_\_\_\_ is only one of the acts of the will. The more fundamental feature of the will is that it is a faculty of \_\_\_\_\_ or even of loving.

The will is a rational \_\_\_\_\_ and it desires, it hungers, for the \_\_\_\_\_.

**The Will Aims at Goals:** Our lives are not simply a series of one, individual \_\_\_\_\_ after another. In fact, we engage in larger projects. We aim at some \_\_\_\_\_ and we make many choices in order to arrive at it.

So, if we think about this, we begin to see that freedom, or our act of free choice, is something that emerges from the \_\_\_\_\_ as it desires some end as \_\_\_\_\_.

Ends consistent with human flourishing or happiness				
Goals we might mistakenly pursue but that will only lead to frustration				
(Whenever we choose a course of action in pursuit of some end that is _____ of us. . . we are in a sense acting freely, but also, the more we head away from what's truly _____ for us, the more _____ our lives become.				

What will make us truly happy? In the final analysis, only \_\_\_\_\_ is sufficient to quell all our desires, to satisfy us completely. So only God can be our \_\_\_\_\_.

This is the true reason for our \_\_\_\_\_ and the only way for our freedom to reach its full amplitude and \_\_\_\_\_.

We have the powers of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ so that in this life, we would freely know God by \_\_\_\_\_ and love him by supernatural \_\_\_\_\_.

But if we use those powers in order to pursue something \_\_\_\_\_ with God, then we're in fact \_\_\_\_\_ the scope of the human person. We're \_\_\_\_\_ our wills so that they'll be addicted to what is not good for us.

Sin... turns us away from God, our true \_\_\_\_\_ and the only one who can make us truly happy. Our wills then become \_\_\_\_\_ on some partial, created thing.

In creating us, God has already \_\_\_\_\_ us to certain natural goods, which can lead us to some measure of natural happiness... Our nature is, in principle, capable of freely choosing the \_\_\_\_\_ that will lead us towards them.

### **The Highest Good:**

The highest good of the human person is to dwell in \_\_\_\_\_ with God.

This is something that is infinitely above our natural \_\_\_\_\_, but God, by the gift of his \_\_\_\_\_ that comes to us from Christ, can freely move us to desire and to \_\_\_\_\_ to love God above all things, to \_\_\_\_\_ the words of Christ, to entrust ourselves to the power of his sacraments, to profess the faith of the \_\_\_\_\_.

When we do these things, we are in fact, experiencing what our \_\_\_\_\_ was made for in its full amplitude—to \_\_\_\_\_ and thus to \_\_\_\_\_ the supreme good for its own sake.

### **Comprehension questions:**

1. How is Aquinas' understanding of freedom different from the understanding of most people in our world today?
2. Write about a long-term goal that you have. What are some choices you need to make to lead you to this goal?