

Transcendental Taxonomy

Truth (*Intellect*)

General questions:

- What is truth?
- Can something be both true and false at the same time?
- Can something be true one minute and false the next?
- Can something be more or less true?
- What faculty of the human person distinguishes truth?
- What happens when truth is hidden or not discovered?
- Can/Does truth lead us to God?
- Is there a connection between truth and goodness?
- Is there a connection between truth and beauty?
- Can something be true and not good?
- Can something be true and not beautiful?

Applied questions:

- Is this (selection, situation, example, event...) true? How do we know?
- Is the thinking in the (selection, situation, example, event...) in accord with reality?
- Is our thinking in accord with reality? Do we need to re-think this topic?
- Is the thinking in the (selection, situation, example, event...) align with revelation?
- Does our thinking align with revelation? Do we need to explore further?
- Is the thinking in the (selection, situation, example, event...) clear or colored with emotion?
- Are we looking at this (selection, situation, example, event...) clearly, with our senses and reason properly attuned?
- Is the thinking in the (selection, situation, example, event...) properly ordered, rational, and logical?
- Is our thinking properly ordered, rational, and logical?
- Is the information and reasoning clear and precise? Are there areas that are unclear and need more attention?
- On what intellectual, moral, or intuitive principles are those in this (selection, situation, example, event...) basing this truth?
- On what intellectual, moral, or intuitive principles are we basing this truth?
- Are inferences made in the (selection, situation, example, event...) in accord with correct reasoning?
- Are our inferences in accord with correct reasoning?
- What happens (in the novel, selection, example, event) because truth has not been uncovered, revealed, or disclosed? Would events have changed if truth had been uncovered, revealed, or disclosed?

- Can the knowledge or situation under consideration be integrated with or expanded by the knowledge (truths) from another academic discipline or subject?
- Now that we know this truth what other questions does it raise? What more do we want to know?
- What does knowing this truth do to us?
- Is the truth found in this (selection, situation, example, event...) also good? Beautiful?

Beauty (*Emotion*)

General questions:

- What is beauty?
- Why do we find certain things beautiful?
- Is beauty different for different people?
- How can things of very different categories be considered equally beautiful?
- How does beauty affect us?
- Does beauty elevate our minds and hearts to God?
- Is beauty necessary for human flourishing?
- Is there a connection between beauty and goodness?
- Is there a connection between beauty and truth?
- Can beauty be a vehicle for goodness/truth?

Applied questions:

- Is “X” beautiful? Why or Why not?
- Is beauty evident or missing in this (selection, situation, example, event...)?
- Are some things more beautiful than others? Is this important or not? Why?
- Which of these (selections, situations, examples, events...) is more beautiful and why? Why might others have thought this beautiful?
- How does this person/thing attract?
- Does this person/thing use their God-given gifts to attract in a way that pleases God and draws others closer to God?
- What can happen when beauty is not used for the glory of God?
- What is delightful, wondrous about this person/thing?
- How does this shine? Radiate?
- How is faithfulness to form or nature powerfully evident here?
- What does this reveal about the nature of what is seen?
- Where is there unity and wholeness here?
- Where is there proportion and harmony here?
- How does this reveal God’s graciousness, presence, and transcendence?
- How does this beautiful (selection, example, situation, event) affect me? What does this response reveal about me?
- Is this also Good? Is this also True?

Goodness (*Will*)

General Questions:

- What is goodness?
- How do we know goodness?
- Is goodness different for different people?
- Where and how is goodness evident?
- How does goodness perfect this thing's purpose/end?
- How does goodness effect the nature of this person/thing?
- How does this thing perfect what is proper to it? How is it lacking?
- What connection is there between goodness and truth?
- What connection is there between goodness and beauty?
- Is goodness a vehicle for beauty? Truth?

Applied questions:

- Is this (selection, situation, example, event...) overall good?
- Who/what is good in this (selection, situation, example, event...)? How is this evident?
- Where is goodness lacking in this (selection, situation, example, event...)? What is the effect of this lack of goodness?
- Are some persons/things (selections, situations, examples, events...) "more good" than others? Is this important? Why or why not?
- How does this goodness bring others closer to God?
- How does the goodness exhibited in this (selection, situation, example, event...) allow the person/thing to achieve its purpose/end?
- How does the goodness exhibited in this (selection, situation, example, event...) allow the person/thing to fulfill its nature?
- How does the goodness exhibited in this (selection, situation, example, event...) hold up against Catholic worldview and values?
- How does the goodness exhibited in this (selection, situation, example, event...) hold up against Catholic morality and virtue?
- How does this reveal God's presence and transcendence?
- How does goodness exhibited in this (selection, situation, example, event...) affect me? What does this response reveal about me?
- Does goodness exhibited in this (selection, situation, example, event...) connect with truth? With beauty? If so, how?