



Name: _____ Date: _____

Words to know:

intelligibility (*ability to be known and understood*), compatible (*capable of existing in harmony*)

SCIENCE: An organized body of _____ developed to understand a given subject.

Examples:

IS THEOLOGY A SCIENCE?

YES: THEOLOGY IS A SCIENCE

- St. Thomas does affirm that theology is a science. He calls it the study of the inner intelligibility of the mystery of _____ revealed in _____ through the Church.

BUT: THEOLOGY DIFFERS FROM OTHER SCIENCES

- Its first principles (or starting points) do not come from evidential knowledge but are given vertically in divine _____ by God.
- The core truths of Christianity are known and _____, but not by natural demonstration or philosophical argument, but instead by a deeper form of insight provided by the _____ of the Holy Spirit.
- Divine Revelation is meant to take us beyond or above our merely _____ range of knowing, to introduce us into _____ and intellectual familiarity with God.
- By _____, and _____, and _____, the human being begins to participate in the very knowledge of God.
- So, theology is a science but it is a science made possible by _____.
- God gives you the grace to embark on an intelligent _____ of God's own mystery.

AND: THEOLOGY IS COMPATIBLE WITH OTHER SCIENCES

- Secondly, Aquinas notes that the truths of revelation given us to study are _____ with the truths of all other forms of knowledge.
- The truths of revelation are not contrary to natural _____ ever!
- The things that God reveals are above nature (which is why we call them _____)

- God gives us certain helps to see that revelation is rational to believe in:

We can study the mysteries in their internal _____.	We can examine how the mysteries _____ the human condition.	We can prove some things by reason that dovetail with Revelation, like proving the _____ of God.	God gives confirming signs, reasons of credibility, such as _____.
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THE HOLY TRINITY

The center of the science of theology is the knowledge of the _____.
If we really want to understand the mystery of Revelation, we need to understand:

1. _____ God is
2. Everything else in light of _____

FAITH

- Even with Divine Revelation, we cannot perfectly _____ God.
- But _____ is a real form of knowing God that gives us light and knowledge of who God is.
- Faith provides us with an ultimate perspective on life, both through:
 - ◊
 - ◊ The spiritual life (mysticism)
- Faith gives rise to a science open to _____ so that theology is pointing us toward something beyond theology... it's pointing us towards _____.

Comprehension questions:

- 1) How is theology different from your other areas of study?
- 2) What is the role of faith in the study of theology?