

St. Thomas Aquinas on Faculties of the Human Soul

Name _____

Below is an outline of faculties of the human soul according to St. Thomas Aquinas.

a faculty is a “power to do some particular thing”

I. Faculties of the Human Soul

A. Vegetal Faculty

1. Nutritive faculty
2. Growing faculty
3. Generative faculty

B. Sensory Faculty

1. Exterior Senses

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

2. Interior Senses

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

C. Rational Faculties

1. Intellect
2. Will

To do:

1. List the exterior senses of a human (you should be able to get all five).

2. List the interior senses of a human (hmm...intriguing...guess...it is okay to be wrong).

HINT: These could be thought of as sense powers of the mind or abilities of the mind...)

3. Write the names of different *characteristics of living things* next to the faculties as they apply. You may use the characteristics more than once.

4. Write the names of body systems (look up a list of body systems if you need too) associated with each faculty next to each faculty.

5. Which of these faculties do you think are typically included in Biology as a subject?

6. Which of these faculties do you think are typically NOT included in Biology as a subject?

7. Considering your answers to questions 5&6, is defining biology as “the study of life” accurate/precise enough or not? Explain.

8. Now get a copy of “Aquinas Summa Power of Soul” from the teacher, turn over this worksheet and complete two more questions.

8a. State how the three categories of powers: vegetative, sensitive, and rational are different from each other.

8b. List and describe the 4 modes of living that Aquinas proposes for living things.

(Resource: <http://www.catholictheology.info/summa-theologica/summa-part1.php?q=527>)