
FINAL EXAM STUDY GUIDE

Faith & Reason

An excellent exam will clearly present and discuss the various issues related to faith and reason in detail and in their connection with one another. It will make reference to the arguments in *Fides et Ratio*. It is necessary to demonstrate the ability to apply these issues to other contexts.

Principal themes

- The meaning of faith
 - How one comes to faith
 - The evidence that contributes to the act of faith
 - Difference between belief and faith
 - The content of faith
 - Obedience and faith
- The nature, use, and purpose of reason
 - Proper use of reason
 - Difficulties in reasoning
 - How reason relates to daily life
 - The role of philosophy
 - Absolute truth
 - The relationship between truth and various forms of knowledge
 - Cultural differences
- The nature of revelation and how it is related to reason
 - The meaning of revelation
 - The source of revelation
 - The content of revelation
 - Truth of revelation and truth of reason
 - How revelation transforms thought
 - The deposit of faith
 - Cultural expressions of the truths of faith
 - How reason relates to faith
- The role of the Magisterium
 - The nature and operation of the magisterium
 - Different levels of magisterial teaching
 - In what way is the Magisterium concerned with philosophy
 - How the Magisterium has intervened in philosophical matters
 - How the Magisterium evaluates philosophy
- How reason enhances faith
 - The use of philosophy in the understanding of the faith
 - The use of philosophy in the preparation for faith
 - The use of philosophy in the proclamation of the faith
 - How Christians have responded to philosophy in the past
 - How Christians are called to respond to philosophy and science in the present
 - The nature of Christian philosophy
 - The merits of Thomas Aquinas
- How faith enhances reason
 - Problems in contemporary philosophy
 - Why philosophy is in a sense independent from faith
 - How philosophy is impoverished without faith
 - Necessary characteristics of philosophy
 - The dangers of historicism, scientism, pragmatism
 - How theology uses philosophy
 - What does it mean to “philosophize in Mary”?