

Aquinas

1	What is synderesis?	Do good and avoid evil, the principle all precepts stem from
2	What is conscientia?	The process of a persons reason making moral judgment
3	What is ratio?	Reason, something that is God given
4	How I reason used?	By developing intellectual virtue or phronesis
5	What is the role of God?	God given us the ability to use reason to access the conscience. A guilt conscience is because we have gone against our God given reason
6	What is the perspective of the theory?	Theological

Aquinas

1	What is Phronesis?	A practical wisdom, particularly in relation to moral decisions
2	What is vincible ignorance?	A lack of knowledge for which a person is responsible
3	What is invincible ignorance?	A lack of knowledge for which a person is not responsible
4	How does the conscience make errors?	It is not fully developed yet or does not possess the level of knowledge needed. Someone may reject their reason.
5	What is the authority of the conscience?	Aquinas states human are obliged to follow and listen to the conscience
6	Who provides an alternative theological view?	Joh Henry Newman- Gods voice speaking to us directly, its an inner voice that we must obey.

Freud

1	What is the role of the ego?	It's the conscience itself
2	What is the role of the Id?	The unconscious self which contains desire
3	What is the role of the super-ego?	Moral controls that often oppose the Id
4	What is consciousness?	The thoughts and desires we have and experience
5	What is the preconscious?	What we aren't experiencing but may come to the surface at some point
6	What is the unconscious?	The thoughts and feelings that are buried beneath the surface of our mind and cannot be retrieved except through psychoanalysis

Freud

1	What is psychosexual development?	The idea all psychological problems are caused by sexuality
2	What is the human personality made up of?	Ego, super-ego, Id
3	What is guilt?	What occurs when we go against our conscience/ superego
4	What is the Oedipus complex?	Where guilt is derived from sexual desires around parents
5	What did Karl Popper say about Freud?	Argued it was not based on any scientific evidence
6	How did Richard Dawkins respond to Freud?	Gave an evolutionary account of the conscience, the idea we learn desired traits from generations

Key Vocabulary

Ratio	Used by Aquinas to describe reason, something which is placed in every person as a result of their being created in the image of God
Synderesis	For Aquinas, this means follow the good and avoid the evil. The rule all precepts follow
Id	Freud, teaching that this part of the mind has instinctive impulses that seek satisfaction of pleasure
Super-ego	Freud uses this word to describe the part of the mind that contradicts the Id and uses internalised ideals from parents and society
Ego	Freud uses this word to describe the mediation between the Id and super-ego
Conscientia	This is the name Aquinas gives to the process whereby a person's reason makes moral judgement
Vincible ignorance	This is how Aquinas describes a lack of knowledge for which a person is responsible, and can be blamed
Invincible ignorance	This is how Aquinas describes a lack of knowledge for which a person is not responsible, and cannot be blamed

We may all have a view on what our 'conscience' issue to describe elements of our lives or feelings. But depending on which perspective you agree with the conscience means different things for different people, the consequences attached to these having varied impacts on people's lives. This unit explores the conscience from the contrasting perspectives of psychology and theology.



Theological Perspective

Aquinas- Synderesis and Conscientia

1	What is synderesis?	
2	What is conscientia?	
3	What is ratio?	
4	How is reason used?	
5	What is the role of God?	
6	What is the perspective of the theory?	

Psychological Perspective

Freud

1	What is the role of the ego?	
2	What is the role of the Id?	
3	What is the role of the super-ego?	
4	What is consciousness?	
5	What is the preconscious?	
6	What is the unconscious?	

Freud

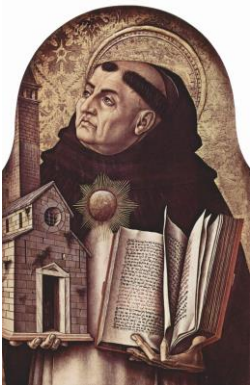
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Key Vocabulary

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Id	
Super-ego	
Ego	
Conscientia	
Vincible ignorance	
Invincible ignorance	



Year 2 Ethics: Conscience



Aquinas' view is strange amongst theologians. It is the rationale ability to understand the difference between right and wrong.

Reasoning and God

Aquinas' uses the idea of right reason. He believes that our ability to reason is given to us by God as a result of being created in the image of God. We do this by developing the intellectual virtue of prudence or phronesis- the ability to make judgements based on the circumstances we find ourselves.

Synderesis and Conscientia

Making moral judgements comes in two parts, synderesis and Conscientia. Synderesis is our natural inclination that we seek to 'do good and avoid evil'. It involves our awareness of what the moral rules are.

Synderesis: the inner principle directing a person towards good and away from evil

Conscientia: a persons reason making moral judgements

Phronesis: a practical wisdom, particularly in relation to moral decisions

Aquinas- conscience and making mistakes. We are not advanced enough to understand the conscience to enable us to apply it to moral decision making. As we can more reason and knowledge we develop the conscience. He categorises this as Vincible and invincible ignorance.

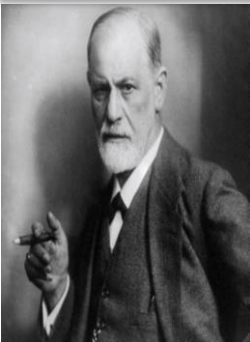


J.H. Newman offers an alternative theological view. Newman's view is that the conscience is more of an inner voice rather than our reasoning. The conscience is effectively God's voice speaking to us directly. We experience guilt and shame when we disobey it.

Invincible ignorance: a lack of knowledge for which a person is not responsible

Vincible ignorance: A lack of knowledge for which a person is responsible

Conscience is not a power, but an act... for conscience, according to the very nature of the word, implies the relation of knowledge to something... knowledge applied to an individual case- Aquinas Summa Theologica



Sigmund Freud rejects the idea of God and the soul. He says the mind is like a machine and psychology is the process of scientifically studying and unpacking layers of this complicated machine.

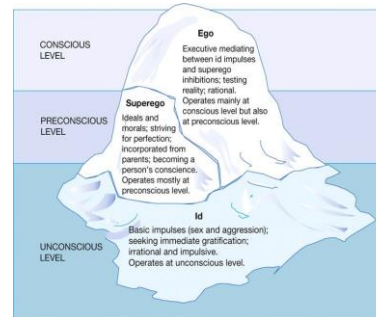
On personality:

1. The ego is the conscious self, the thinking we are most aware of
2. The id is the unconscious self which contains basic desires and drives- such as death and sex.
3. The superego is a set of moral controls and ideas given by authority and often opposes the id.

Forming the superego and guilt:

It is formed by society, particularly parents. It is a reaction to all demands that are placed upon a person that they cannot live up to. We internalize the voice and a gap emerges between the ego and the superego.

Guilt occurs when we go against our conscience.



Ego: Our conscious self that mediates between the id and the demands of social interaction.

Superego: the internalized ideals from parents and. Society that try to make the ego behave morally

Id: the instinctive impulses that seek satisfaction in pleasure

Psychosexual development: the Oedipus complex-

All problems are called by sexuality, especially the childhood awareness of libido. A male child in his infancy has pre-sexual desires and a fixation for his mother and sees his father as an obstacle to achieve this. Females develop the Electra complex, which is the daughters sexual desire for the father.

Spec on the conscience	What Aquinas says	What Freud says
Linked to reason	yes	no
Product of unconscious mind	no	yes
Whether the conscience exists	yes	No- just the name for a phenomenon
Conscience as an umbrella term for various factors	no	Yes- particularly culture and environment

What the specification says

Aquinas' theological approach	Details of this approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratio • Synderesis • Conscientia • Vincible ignorance • Invincible ignorance
Freuds psychological approach	Details of this approach: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Psychosexual development • Id • Ego • Superego

Comparison between Aquinas and Freud - the concept of guilt

-the presence or absence of God on the workings on the conscience and superego

-moral decision making

Whether conscience is linked to, or separate from, reason and the un-conscience mind

Whether conscience exists at all or is instead an umbrella term covering various factors involved in moral decision making, such as culture, environment, genetic predisposition and education.