

Reading Questions: Aristotle I (*Nichomachean Ethics*)

1. Why does Aristotle think there is one chief good?
2. Find three examples of Aristotle using dialectic.
3. What kind of end is happiness according to Aristotle? What is a final end? What is a self-sufficient end?
4. Is virtue a passion, a capacity, or a state of character according to Aristotle?
5. How does Aristotle think individuals become (morally) virtuous? What defines (moral) virtue?
6. Should we enjoy doing the virtuous thing or should we do it simply because it is virtuous according to Aristotle?
7. What are the three main kinds of friendship according to Aristotle? How do they differ from each other?
8. What is the relationship between pleasure and virtue? Between pleasure and the good?
9. What is the difference between the “scientific” and “deliberative” or “calculative” part of the rational part of the soul discussed in Book VI? How do they relate to the best kind of life discussed in Book X.7?
10. Why does Aristotle think the life of contemplation is better than the life of action? Are you convinced by his argument?