Day 1: Catechetics/Catechesis

1. The Catechism has been one of the major means of “handing on the faith.” From both a historical and a contemporary perspective, discuss the strengths and weaknesses of a catechism approach to religious education/catechesis.

2. Discuss the nature, object, and duties/purpose of catechesis according to the General Directory of Catechesis and the National Directory of Catechesis.

3. Discuss how the catechetical documents understand evangelization. What does this mean for catechesis of the young, youth, or adults? (Choose one level of maturation for your discussion.)

4. Discuss the context of catechesis as understood by Groome and Westerhoff.

5. Identify three scholars who have had a significant influence on the history of Religious Education/Catechetics. Write a summary of each one’s contribution.

6. Describe the role of the catechist. Discuss and evaluate the church’s role in supporting the ministry of catechesis.

7. Discuss inculturation as it relates to catechesis. In the discussion include the ideas of two scholars.

8. Discuss what it means to say that the fourth-century catechumenate is the “model of all catechesis.” Think of one of the sacraments, other than baptism, and discuss how that model can be applied to it today.
Day 2: Catholic Theological Tradition

1. Pinckaers offers a Thomistic virtue-based approach to Christian ethics in response to the Vatican II document *Optatem Totius* 16’s call for a renewed moral theology. Explain three reasons why moral theology was in need of renewal, according to Pinckaers, and how the approach he outlines addresses each of these needs.

2. How does Loewe present Jesus as an historical figure and how does this impact his discussion of Christological/Soteriological themes?

3. Compare and contrast two of the following approaches to the study of religion: psychological, sociological, and phenomenological. Identify at least three scholars and the contributions and limitations of each approach.

4. How do the essays in *Systematic Theology: Roman Catholic Perspectives* use their historical sources in their systematic presentations? Which historical figures occur most in the text and how are those figures used (for example are the historical figures used as moments in a line of development or are they seen in a more negative light)?

5. Basing yourself on the book of Jensen, discuss Isaiah: the person and his times, the book and its different parts, and the message(s).

6. Choose any one of the Four Gospels and explain (1) the historical background necessary to understand that Gospel and (2) the major theological themes that the Gospel develops.

7. Reflecting on Augustine’s *Instructing Beginners in Faith*, discuss what is relevant today. What do you judge to be Augustine’s most valuable advice for catechists? Explain.

8. Discuss the understanding of the church as both a local and universal church. Do these views complement each other or exist in conflict with each other? Is one more important than the other? Explain.