

Aristotle Reading Guide
Book III

1. What is virtue concerned with?
2. We must draw a distinction concerning actions (1109b 30). What are the two types?
3. Some voluntary acts are abstractly involuntary (1110a 15). What is their quality (1110b)?
4. Why are pleasant and noble objects not compelling, by this definition?
5. There is another type of involuntary act - it is done by ... (1110b 25)
6. A species of ignorance comes out, and this is the realm of involuntary act.
7. There are how many ways to be ignorant, leading to involuntary acts? Number them. (1111a 5)
8. How do we know an act of this type has occurred? (1111a 20).
9. There is a 'reductio ad absurdum' in 1111a 25. What is it about?
10. What is the conclusion at the end of chapter 1?
11. In chapter 2, what is closely tied to virtue?
12. Relate the incontinent man, appetite and choice at 1111b 15.
13. How are 'wish' and 'choice' different? 1111b 25.
14. Why or when is choice praised? 1112a 5.
15. In chapter 3, what do we deliberate about?
16. What distinction is made at 1112b 10-15?
17. Note the summation at the end of 1113a. At chapter 5, there is a sort of hypothetical syllogism. Identify it.
18. 1114a tells us when ignorance is punishable. When and why?
19. A species of this ignorance appears at 1114a 10. Note this.
20. What is the analogy at 1114a 15 concerned with?
21. What do some say at 1114a 30? Who might this be?
22. The response to this question occupies 1114b 1-25. What is the conclusion?
23. Before we move on to virtues in general, we sum up the argument so far (1114b 25-1115a).
24. What is the first virtue we consider? Why do you suppose?
25. Is shame good? 1115a 10.
26. 1115b 15. What man can be said to be brave?
27. Who fears nothing, and who is rash? (1115b 25).
28. In chapter 8 we encounter five types of courage. List or note them.
29. What virtue do we encounter at 1117b 20? What is its definition?
30. 1118b 30 lists the extreme in lack of temperance. What is it?
31. In chapter 12, we see a comparison of virtues. What is it?
32. How should the appetites be governed? (analogy, 1119a 10).

Book IV

1. What virtue is under consideration in Chapter 3?
2. 1123b 25 through 1124a 5 reveals an interesting conclusion. What is it?
3. What middle state is unnamed in Chapter 5?
4. Can anger be a virtue?
5. Chapter 6 lists two extremes. What do they relate to?
6. Chapter 7 describes which fault?
7. 1127b 30-35ff summarizes what virtue? What are the extremes?
8. Chapter 9 discusses Shame. What of it?

