

Guidelines for the *Lectio Coram*

The *Lectio Coram* is a traditional tool used by Dominican *studia* which has been adapted to present day usage before the Pontifical Faculty. In the *Lectio* the candidate for the S.T.L. demonstrates to the board of examiners (usually four) that he/she 1) has a firm grasp of the topic on which he/she is speaking, and 2) is able to communicate that knowledge to the board of examiners. In addition, if the topic is theological, the candidate should demonstrate his/her ability to theologize to his/her board of examiners.

The following methodology is to be used in presenting your thesis before the board of examiners in the *Lectio Coram*. The presenter has only forty-five minutes to present his or her thesis; following these guidelines should enable the presenter to clearly state the thesis within those limits and present the supporting evidence. The remainder of the time will be devoted to answering questions from the examiners.

1. Briefly describe the question or problem you will be discussing: (15 minutes maximum)
 - a. Why are you discussing this topic? That is, what is its significance?
 - b. What do you hope to prove?
2. Briefly state your basic answer of solution to the question or problems. What is the point of your *Lectio*? (5 minutes maximum)
3. Develop your thesis which answers or solves the question or problem: (at least 20 minutes)
 - a. This is the heart of your presentation and should utilize the great majority of your time.
 - b. During this time you can:
 - ii Define your terms
 - ii Cite your authorities
 - iii State your principles
 - iv Argue your thesis from your principles
4. Summarize your conclusion(s): (5 minutes)
 - a. What do you want the examiners to remember in particular
 - b. What questions remain for further consideration
 - i Either in the question period
 - ii Or in another forum