

Creating Multiple Choice
Questions that Target

Higher Order Thinking



objective

demonstrate how to **create**
multiple choice questions
that require students to
use **higher order**
thinking to solve



key definitions

BRT: Bloom's Revised Taxonomy

Factual Question: a question that addresses Remembering

HOT Question: a question that addresses Understanding, Applying, Analyzing, or Evaluating



Outline

- 1) Scenario-based question
- 2) Analysis of Visuals
- 3) The Answer + Reason Why



SCENARIO-
BASED
QUESTION



Content (delivered in lecture, reading, discussion, etc).

On the one hand, [Epictetus] completely rejects the idea that people are passive victims of disturbing emotions. Love did not drive the father of 1.11 to abandon his sick daughter; he ran away because he wanted to shield himself from anguish. His timidity was due to his misjudgements of how a loving father should behave. Because all emotions are judgements and functions of our volition, they are 'up to us' and therefore not necessitated by anything external (Long 250).



Factual question (Remembering - BRT #1): What does Epictetus mean by saying that the father "ran away"?

- a. He ran away to Rome to focus on business.
- b. He moved out of the house until his daughter improved.
- c. He refused to see or talk to his daughter by staying out of the room she was recuperating in.
- d. He completely ignored her physically and emotionally while at home.



Scenario-based question (estimation - BRT #5): If the father had asked Epictetus how he should deal with his daughter's sickness, which of the following responses best articulates what Epictetus would have advised given your understanding of Epictetus' *Discourses* and *Enchiridion*?

- a. As a good Stoic, the father should feel nothing because he knows that emotions lead to an imbalance that does not allow him to live life with true happiness.
- b. The father should contemplate the meaning of sickness and health so that he can decide not to give into his inferior appetite and be governed by fear.
- c. The father should spend time with his daughter, acknowledge her suffering verbally, and realize that he has no control over her health.

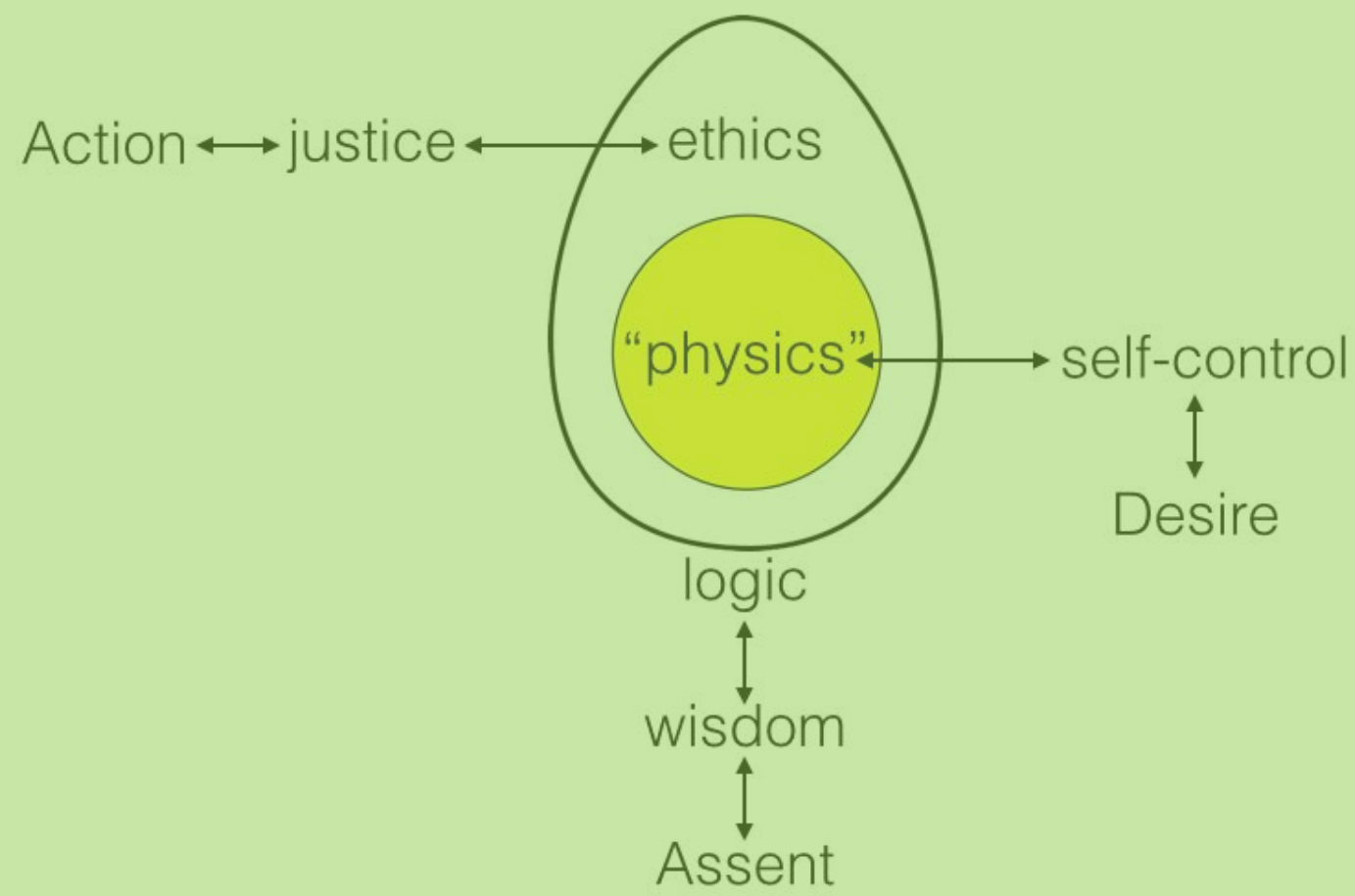


ANALYSIS OF
VISUALS
QUESTION



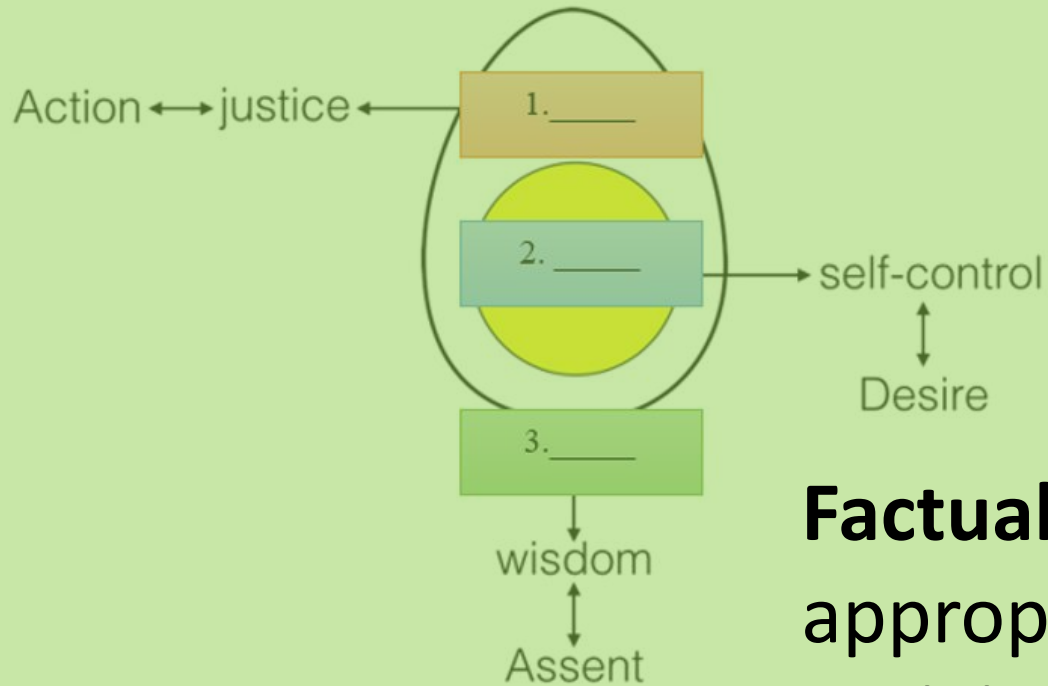
The Stoic Egg

(branches of philosophy, virtues, disciplines)



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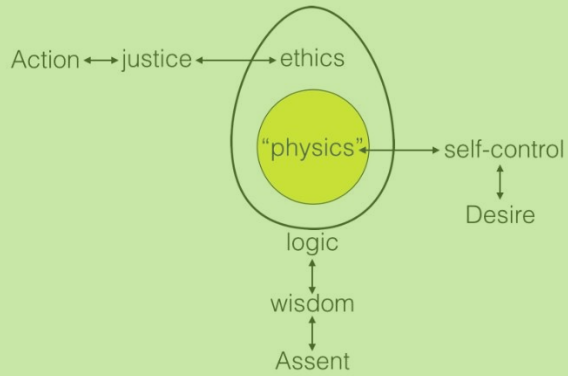


Factual Question: Label the diagram appropriately.

- a. (1) ethics; (2) physics; (3) logic
- b. (1) logic; (2) ethics; (3) physics
- c. (1) physics; (2) ethics; (3) logic
- d. (1) logic; (2) physics; (3) ethics



The Stoic Egg
(branches of philosophy, virtues, disciplines)



Analysis of Visuals: The Stoic egg is helpful in that it shows why the different parts of Stoic philosophy are interdependent. What this means is that:

- a. Knowing how to grow in one's ability govern desire requires the proper use of one's logic and an established set of values
- b. Giving proper assent demands that I use cogent reasoning (logic), which in turn enables me to become wiser and thus more capable
- c. Achieving correct action requires me to have a healthy set of ethics and a proper definition of justice



THE ANSWER +
REASON WHY
QUESTION



Content (delivered in lecture, reading, discussion, etc). Epictetus advises, "Do not hesitate to sympathize verbally with a [distraught] person, and even, if the occasion arises, share in the person's groans. But take care not to groan also within yourself" (*Ench.* 16).



Factual question: What famous scenario in Epictetus *Discourses* would have benefited from applying Epictetus' advice here in the *Enchiridion*?

- a. The visitor from Rome
- b. The father with his sick daughter
- c. The story of Epictetus' stolen lamp
- d. The conversation with the depilated fop



The Answer + Reason Why (application - BRT #3) What principle is guiding Epictetus' advice in *Ench.* 16 and why?

- a. The "Ideal Student's Attitude" because it identifies the proper perspective that one should have not only as a beginning student but also as one who encounters life holistically and aware of God's presence in each experience.
- b. Knowing what is "in my power" and "not in my power" because it distinguishes between the verbal acknowledgement of another's pain and one's own, internal belief about what is affecting the distraught person.
- c. Remembering that "freedom is an internal state of mind" because it explains why we are not bound to internals but to external sources of power.



Resources

1. [Bloom's Revised Taxonomy](#)
2. [Designing Effective Test Questions PDF](#)

