

# Common Good Unit Post-assessment Teacher Key

Student Name:

## 1. What does it mean to flourish? How did this unit change your understanding?

*Flourishing means sharing in conditions necessary to reach one's full potential in every aspect—physical, social, emotional, spiritual, and intellectual.*

*Flourishing is not the same as having everything that one might want. In other words, it is not necessarily the same as what the world promotes as success. For example, a person does not necessarily need a new car, a big house, and a successful career to flourish. But a person does need shelter, meaningful work, and the means to get to work in order to flourish. Further, just as a rose needs pruning to flourish, a person may experience difficulties that can ultimately promote one's flourishing.*

## 2. What do you need to flourish? Is it the same as what other people need to flourish? How is your ability to flourish related to other people flourishing? How did this unit change your understanding?

*Expect students to offer age-appropriate individualized suggestions like, "I need my favorite food to flourish." But students should also be able to recognize those universals needed for human flourishing in their concrete, lived experience, such as:*

- ◆ *Basic needs, like food, water, or shelter.*
- ◆ *Interpersonal needs, like friendship, the love of parents, the support of teachers and mentors, and other relationships that acknowledge their dignity and are rooted in justice, care, and compassion, etc.*
- ◆ *Spiritual needs, like a relationship with God*
- ◆ *Intellectual needs, like seeking truth and meaning*
- ◆ *A person's flourishing does not happen in a vacuum but is deeply connected to the flourishing of other living things such as plants, animals, and especially other human beings.*

## 3. What is the common good? How did this unit change your understanding of what this is?

*The hope is that students have appropriated and can express in their own words the definition of the common good and its critical attributes.*

- ◆ *The common good is the shared conditions that allow every human being to flourish.*
- ◆ *Critical attributes of common good:*
- ◆ *Inherent dignity*
- ◆ *Interdependence*
- ◆ *Shared conditions*
- ◆ *Individual duties and responsibilities*

◆ *Historical variability and structural consistency*

*Students may indicate that prior to this unit they thought of the common good in utilitarian terms, as the greatest good for the most people. Hopefully, by the end of the unit, they understand that the common good is a collaborative endeavor that excludes no one and seeks flourishing for all members of society.*

- 4. How does your personal “good” relate to the “good” of others? How does your personal good relate to your flourishing and the flourishing of others? How did this unit change your understanding?** *If substantive learning has occurred, students should be able to connect their personal good with the good of others. What is good for an individual helps a person to flourish or reach their full potential. What is good is not necessarily what brings immediate gratification or satisfaction. Such things may indeed NOT be good for genuine flourishing. We are only able to reach our full potential with one another in community, not as isolated individuals.*