



# Theory of Knowledge (TOK)

## A brief introduction of the core



# What is TOK?

A course about how the knowledge is **developed**, **tested**, **verified** and **updated** when necessary.

The students will investigate these processes in **5 areas of knowledge (AOK)**, all of which are taken from the subjects they are familiar with:

- *Mathematics*
- *The Natural Sciences*
- *The Human Sciences*
- *History*
- *The Arts*





# TOK curriculum

## 1. The core theme – Knowledge and the Knower

Opportunity to consider how professional knowledge makers go about their work, the students reflect on themselves as knowers and thinkers

## 2. Optional themes (at least 2 of them in the course)

- Knowledge and Technology
- Knowledge and Language
- Knowledge and Indigenous Societies
- Knowledge and Politics
- Knowledge and Religion







# Assessment in TOK

## 1. Internal assessment – **Exhibition**

1/3 of final TOK score; student curated exhibition of objects illustrating issues related to a knowledge question. Exhibitions receive a mark out of 10.

## 2. External assessment – **Essay**

2/3 of final TOK score; student essay in response to one prescribed title. Externally assessed by IB examiners, up to 1600 words. Essays receive a mark out of 10 – doubled to make a mark out of 20.

# How can I add a bit of TOK in my lessons?

## *-in less than 5 minutes-*

- Embed these TOK concepts in your day-to-day teaching and learning vocabulary: **evidence, certainty, truth, interpretation, power, justification, explanation, objectivity, perspective, culture, values, and responsibility.**
- Create a **timeline** (or different timelines) of the historical development of your discipline.
- Discuss **how progress occurs** in your discipline.
- Discuss **breakthroughs and set-backs** in the development of knowledge in your subject.
- Discuss **how technology impacts** knowledge in your subject discipline.
- Discuss **how useful** the knowledge of your subject is.
- Discuss **how "true"** the knowledge of your subject is.
- Discuss what "the point"/**importance of your subject** is.
- Ask students: "**Is there an alternative explanation**"?
- What is the **biggest unanswered question** in your subject area?
- What counts as **good evidence** in your area of knowledge?

PENGUINS ARE BLACK AND WHITE.  
SOME OLD TV SHOWS ARE BLACK AND WHITE.  
THEREFORE, SOME PENGUINS ARE OLD TV SHOWS.



GLASBERGEN

**Logic: another thing that  
penguins aren't very good at.**

**Thank you for your attention.**

