

Theory of knowledge prescribed titles

November 2015 examination session

Instructions to candidates

Your theory of knowledge essay for examination must be submitted to your teacher for authentication. It must be written on one of the six titles (questions) provided overleaf. You may choose any title, but are recommended to consult with your teacher. Your essay will be marked according to the assessment criteria published in the **theory of knowledge guide**. The focus of your essays should be on knowledge questions. Where appropriate, refer to other parts of your IB programme and to your experiences as a knower. Always justify your statements and provide relevant examples to illustrate your arguments. Pay attention to the implications of your arguments, and remember to consider what can be said against them. If you use external sources, cite them according to a recognized convention.

Note that statements in quotations in these titles are not necessarily authentic: they present a real point of view but may not be direct quotes. It is appropriate to analyse them but it is unnecessary, even unwise, to spend time on researching a context for them.

Examiners mark essays against the title as set. Respond to the title exactly as given; do not alter it in any way.

Your essay must have a maximum of 1600 words, it must be double spaced and typed in size 12 font.

1. “The main reason knowledge is produced is to solve problems.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
 2. Assess the advantages and disadvantages of using models to produce knowledge of the world.
 3. “Without the group to verify it, knowledge is not possible.” Discuss.
 4. “In some areas of knowledge we try to reduce a complex whole to simple components, but in others we try to integrate simple components into a complex whole.” Discuss this distinction with reference to two areas of knowledge.
 5. “No knowledge can be produced by a single way of knowing.” Discuss.
 6. Is explanation a prerequisite for prediction? Explore this question in relation to two areas of knowledge.
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