

Theory of knowledge prescribed titles

November 2017 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 instrument published in the **theory of knowledge guide**. The focus of your essay 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.

1. Is the value of knowledge related to how easy it is to access? Develop your answer with reference to two areas of knowledge.
 2. “Every theory destabilizes as much as it solidifies our view of the world” (Nathan Jurgenson). Discuss.
 3. “Over time, knowledge has become more accurate.” Discuss this statement with reference to two areas of knowledge.
 4. Areas of knowledge have methods for testing and supporting knowledge claims. How can we know that these methods themselves are reliable? Develop your answer with reference to two areas of knowledge.
 5. “The simplest explanation is the best explanation.” Discuss this statement with reference to two areas of knowledge.
 6. “The production of knowledge seems to require creativity at every stage of the process.” Discuss this statement with reference to two areas of knowledge.
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