



## Prescribed TOK Essay Titles

Topic 1. Are interdisciplinary approaches to knowledge confusing?

Topic 2. More knowledge increases doubt. (Goethe quote)

Topic 3. Knowledge requires an assumption of uniformity.

Topic 4. Suspension of disbelief is essential to knowledge.

Topic 5. Historical duration of disciplines of knowledge.

Topic 6. Robust knowledge requires both consensus and disagreement.

**Title 1: concerns whether interdisciplinary approaches to knowledge are confusing.**

Thoughts to consider with essay 1 include:

- what questions are distinctive of each academic discipline?
- what methods of enquiry are distinctive of each discipline?
- can different disciplines share common conceptual schemes?

**Title 2: concerns whether more knowledge increases doubt and includes a Goethe quote.**

Thoughts to consider with essay 2 include:

- what is a paradox?
- to what extent is the growth of knowledge the growth of our conceptual schemes?
- is the ability to ask new questions simply increased ignorance or increased doubt?



**Title 3: concerns whether knowledge requires an assumption of uniformity.**

Thoughts to consider with essay 3 include:

- what are the different kinds of uniformity?
- is the possession of a concept knowing a rule?
- do laws of nature exist in reality or only in our minds?

**Title 4: concerns whether the suspension of disbelief is essential to knowledge.**

Thoughts to consider with essay 4 include:

- what is the relation between belief and imagination?
- is supposition a kind of imagination?
- how do we detect inconsistency in our belief systems?

**Title 5: concerns the historical duration of disciplines of knowledge.**

Thoughts to consider with essay 5 include:

- how can knowledge have "quality"?
- how, if at all, do we measure the quantity of knowledge?
- how are new academic disciplines born?



**Title 6: concerns whether robust knowledge requires both consensus and disagreement.**

Thoughts to consider with essay 6 include:

isn't all knowledge robust? Isn't it belief that is not?

does knowledge rely on opinion?

what is the difference between rational and non-rational disagreement?