

Theory of knowledge prescribed titles

May 2025 examination session

Instructions to candidates

- Your theory of knowledge essay must be written on one of the six essay titles (questions) provided overleaf. These essay titles take the form of knowledge questions that are focused on the areas of knowledge. You may choose any of the titles but are recommended to make your choice in consultation with your teacher.
- Your essay will be marked according to the assessment instrument published in the **theory of knowledge guide**. Examiners will be looking to see that you have provided a clear, coherent and critical exploration of your chosen title.
- Examiners will mark your essay against the title as set. It is very important that you respond to the title exactly as given and do not alter the title in any way. Please note that any quotations that appear in the titles are not necessarily authentic. They will present a real point of view but may not be direct quotations.
- Your theory of knowledge essay must be submitted to your teacher for authentication. Any external sources used must be acknowledged and should be cited according to a recognized convention.
- Your theory of knowledge essay should be written in standard size 12 font and be double spaced. It must be a maximum of 1600 words.

1. Do historians and human scientists have an ethical obligation to follow the directive: “do not ignore contradictory evidence”? Discuss with reference to history **and** the human sciences.
 2. Is our most revered knowledge more fragile than we assume it to be? Discuss with reference to the arts **and one other** area of knowledge.
 3. How can we reconcile the relentless drive to pursue knowledge with the finite resources we have available? Discuss with reference to the natural sciences **and one other** area of knowledge.
 4. Do the ever-improving tools of an area of knowledge always result in improved knowledge? Discuss with reference to **two** areas of knowledge.
 5. To what extent do you agree with the claim “all models are wrong, but some are useful” (attributed to George Box)? Discuss with reference to mathematics **and one other** area of knowledge.
 6. Does acquiring knowledge destroy our sense of wonder? Discuss with reference to **two** areas of knowledge.
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