**A quick overview of the TOK essay**

* The TOK essay is an individual task
* It represents two thirds of the overall mark for TOK
* It is externally marked
* You choose your title from a list of six prescribed titles, which change every exam session
* The word count for the essay is 1600 words
* You’ll meet your TOK teacher for three interactions to discuss your essay progress
* Key areas that are assessed include the clarity of arguments, level of effectiveness of examples, and the focus on the title
* The essay should be completely within approximately 10 hours of teaching/planning/writing
* You’ll fill in a Planning and Progress Form (PPF), which you submit with your essay The context of the essay is explicitly about the five [areas of knowledge](https://theoryofknowledge.net/areas-of-knowledge/)
* There is a single criterion for marking, and four characteristics of an excellent essay (insightful, convincing, accomplished, and lucid)

##### **Topic 1. - Maths +1AOK**

Can there be knowledge that is independent of culture? *Discuss with reference to mathematics and one other area of knowledge.*

##### **Topic 2. 2 AOKs**

To what extent do you agree with the claim that “there’s a world of difference between truth and facts” (Maya Angelou) *. Answer with reference to two areas of knowledge*.

**Topic 3. Natural Science + 1AOK**

Is there solid justification for regarding knowledge in the natural sciences more highly than another area of knowledge? *Discuss with reference to the natural sciences and one other area of knowledge*

##### **Topic 4. History + Human Sciences**

How do historians and human scientists give knowledge meaning through the telling of stories? Discuss with reference to history and the human sciences.

**Topic 5. Arts + 1AOK**

How can we distinguish between good and bad interpretations? *Discuss with reference to the arts and one other area of knowledge*

**Topic 6. 2 AOKs**

If we conclude that there is some knowledge we should not pursue on ethical grounds, how can we determine the boundaries of acceptable investigation within an area of knowledge? *Discuss with reference to two areas of knowledge.*