

■ IB Theory of Knowledge

Introduction

The ToK programme is central to the educational philosophy of the International Baccalaureate Diploma. It is the 'glue' that links the other subject areas into a coherent picture. It challenges students to reflect critically on diverse ways of knowing and areas of knowledge. Students need to become aware of themselves as thinkers, to understand the complexity of knowledge and to recognise the need to act responsibly in a global society. The course is composed almost entirely of questions focusing on an honest search for 'truth'. It includes some ageless questions as well as contemporary issues. It questions all things so that the questioner may become aware of knowledge, its importance, its complexities and its human implications.

Content

The study of Theory of Knowledge looks at mathematics, natural sciences, human sciences, history, ethics and the arts. The student is encouraged to consider strengths and weaknesses of ways of knowing: **emotion, reason, perception and language**.

Having followed the course, it is hoped that students should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the strengths and limitations of the various Ways of Knowing and of the methods used in the different Areas of Knowledge;
- demonstrate the ability to reason critically;
- make connections between personal experience and different Ways of Knowing and Areas of Knowledge;
- demonstrate an understanding of knowledge at work in the world;
- identify values underlying judgements and knowledge and knowledge claims pertinent to local and global issues;
- demonstrate an understanding that personal views, judgements and beliefs may influence their own knowledge claims and those of others;
- use oral and written language to formulate and communicate ideas clearly.

The subject will be taught by a team of teachers incorporating expertise across the different areas of knowledge. Maximum opportunity will be made for students to consider their own opinions and reflect on their experience in discussion and group work.

Assessment

Theory of Knowledge is assessed by one essay of 1200-1600 words on a prescribed title which is externally marked. This makes up (67%) of the marks. The remaining marks are awarded on the basis of an internally assessed presentation made to the class. The marks for Theory of Knowledge are combined with those from the Extended Essay to give up to 3 bonus points awarded on top of the subject grades for the Diploma score.