

TOK content and across the subjects (class of May 2023)

Areas of Knowledge	IB subjects	TOK: topics & key questions
<p>Aug-Oct 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core theme: Knowledge and the knower • Optional themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Knowledge and technology - Knowledge and politics 		
<p>History (Nov/Dec 2021)</p>	<p>History</p>	<p>“Who lives, who dies, who tells your story?”</p> <p>Progress and patterns in history (The wheel of fortune vs Enlightenment)</p> <p>Reliability of sources and perspectives</p> <p>Effective History - Wirkungsgeschichte</p> <p>What is unique about the methodology of history?</p> <p>Is eyewitness testimony a reliable source of evidence?</p> <p>How do we decide which events are historically significant?</p> <p>Can an understanding of history ever be complete?</p>
<p>The natural sciences (Jan-Mar 2022)</p>	<p>Biology</p>	<p>The problems of induction and deduction</p> <p>The limits of the scientific method</p> <p>Karl Popper and falsificationism</p> <p>Scientific revolutions & paradigm shift (T. Kuhn)</p> <p>What does it mean for a discipline to be a science?</p> <p>Have the scientists replaced the priests?</p> <p>Should there be ethical constraints on the pursuit of scientific knowledge?</p>
<p>Feb-Jun 2022: exhibition planning and preparations; exhibition</p>		

<p>The arts (Aug-Oct 2022)</p>	<p>Drama/Film</p>	<p>Knowledge in and through art (Schiller, Gadamer) Art and morality (Wilde) Art as a vehicle for social critique (Bond, Brecht)</p> <p>What is art? What isn't? What is beauty? Are there convincing guidelines for discussing and criticizing art? On what basis can the merit of a work of art be judged? Can experiences of art be considered knowledge?</p>
<p><i>Sep-Dec 2022: ToK essay preparations, three interactions, 1st draft due in Dec 2022, final draft due in early February 2023</i></p>		
<p>Mathematics (Nov/Dec 2022)</p>	<p>Mathematics</p>	<p>Mathematical proofs Axioms and the rejection of the axiomatic approach Induction vs. deduction</p> <p>Is there a distinction between truth and certainty in mathematics? Do you trust your Math teacher more than you trust reason? Is mathematics independent of culture? Is mathematics discovered or invented?</p>
<p>Humanities (Jan-Mar 2023)</p>	<p>German History</p>	<p>Human sciences vs. natural sciences; humanities Observation and the effect of the observer Truth and experience (Rorty, Gadamer)</p> <p>To what extent are the human sciences reliable? Can human behaviour be subject to laws in the same way as the material world? What constitutes good evidence in the humanities? Should humanities become more scientific?</p>