

## TOK content and across the subjects (class of May 2025)

Areas of Knowledge	IB subjects	TOK: topics & key questions
<p><b>Aug-Oct 2023:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Core theme: Knowledge and the knower</b></li> <li>• <b>Optional themes:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Knowledge and language</b></li> <li>- <b>Knowledge and religion/technology</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<p>The Natural Sciences (Nov/Dec 2023)</p>	<p>Biology</p>	<p>The problems of induction and deduction The limits of the scientific method Karl Popper and falsificationism Scientific revolutions &amp; paradigm shift (T. Kuhn)</p> <p>What does it mean for a discipline to be a science? Have the scientists replaced the priests? To what extent should ethical constraints limit the pursuit of scientific knowledge?</p>
<p>History (Jan-Mar 2024)</p>	<p>History</p>	<p><i>“Who lives, who dies, who tells your story?”</i> Progress and patterns in history (The wheel of fortune vs Enlightenment) Reliability of sources and perspectives Effective History – <i>“Wirkungsgeschichte”</i></p> <p>What is unique about the methodology of history? Is eyewitness testimony a reliable source of evidence? How do we decide which events are historically significant? Can an understanding of history ever be complete?</p>
<p><b>Feb-Jun 2024: exhibition planning and preparations; exhibition commentary + exhibition (May/June)</b></p>		

<p>The arts (Aug-Oct 2024)</p>	<p>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><b>Sep-Dec 2024: ToK essay preparations, three interactions, 1<sup>st</sup> draft due in December 2024, final draft due in early February 2025</b></p>		
<p>Mathematics (Nov/Dec 2024)</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 2025)</p>	<p>German English 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>