

Theory of knowledge prescribed titles

May 2026 examination session

Instructions to students

- 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. In the production of knowledge, does it matter that observation is an essential but flawed tool? Discuss with reference to the natural sciences **and one other** area of knowledge.
 2. To what extent do you agree that doubt is central to the pursuit of knowledge? Answer with reference to **two** areas of knowledge.
 3. Is the power of knowledge determined by the way in which the knowledge is conveyed? Discuss with reference to mathematics **and one other** area of knowledge.
 4. In the acquisition of knowledge, can we only understand something to the extent that we understand its context? Discuss with reference to **two** areas of knowledge.
 5. To what extent do you agree with the claim that “all things are numbers” (Pythagoras)? Answer with reference to the arts **and** the human sciences.
 6. To what extent is interpretation a reliable tool in the production of knowledge? Answer with reference to history **and one other** area of knowledge.
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