



IB WORLD SCHOOL 1309 (ZSO13 Gdańsk)



Theory of Knowledge syllabus & course of study

(based on ToK guide, first assessment May 2022, 2h/week)

A. COURSE AIMS:

- to encourage students to reflect on the central question, “How do we know that?”, and to recognize the value of asking that question
- to expose students to ambiguity, uncertainty and questions with multiple plausible answers
- to equip students to effectively navigate and make sense of the world, and help prepare them to encounter novel and complex situations
- to encourage students to be more aware of their own perspectives and to reflect critically on their own beliefs and assumptions
- to engage students with multiple perspectives, foster open-mindedness and develop intercultural understanding
- to encourage students to make connections between academic disciplines by exploring underlying concepts and by identifying similarities and differences in the methods of inquiry used in different areas of knowledge
- to prompt students to consider the importance of values, responsibilities and ethical concerns relating to the production, acquisition, application and communication of knowledge.

B. COURSE OBJECTIVES;

Having completed the TOK course, students should be able to:

- demonstrate TOK thinking through the critical examination of knowledge questions
- identify and explore links between knowledge questions and the world around us
- identify and explore links between knowledge questions and areas of knowledge
- develop relevant, clear and coherent arguments
- use examples and evidence effectively to support a discussion
- demonstrate awareness and evaluation of different points of view
- consider the implications of arguments and conclusions.

C. COURSE OVERVIEW:

C1. Course Content:

C1.1: One Core theme: “Knowledge and the knower”

C1.2: 2 out of 5 optional themes:

- Knowledge and language
- Knowledge and technology
- Knowledge and politics
- Knowledge and religion
- Knowledge and indigenous societies

C1.3: 5 compulsory areas of knowledge:

- Natural sciences
- Human sciences
- Mathematics
- History
- The Arts

Every theme and every area of knowledge, to cover questions related to the four elements of the knowledge framework:

- Scope
- Methods and tools
- Perspectives
- Ethics

D. COURSE OF STUDY

Course elements	Minimum teaching hours
Core theme: Knowledge and the knower This theme provides an opportunity for students to reflect on themselves as knowers and thinkers, and on the different communities of knowers to which we belong.	32
Optional themes Students are required to study two optional themes from the following five options. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knowledge and technology• Knowledge and language• Knowledge and politics• Knowledge and religion• Knowledge and indigenous societies	
Areas of knowledge Students are required to study the following five areas of knowledge. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• History• The human sciences• The natural sciences• The arts• Mathematics	50
Assessment Students are required to complete two assessment tasks. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• TOK exhibition (internally assessed).• TOK essay on a prescribed title (externally assessed).	18
Total minimum teaching hours	100

E. ASSESSMENT

E.1 ToK Assessment outline:

Assessment component	Weighting
Internal assessment Theory of knowledge exhibition (10 marks) For this component, students are required to create an exhibition that explores how TOK manifests in the world around us. This component is internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB at the end of the course.	1/3 (33%)
External assessment TOK essay on a prescribed title (10 marks) For this component, students are required to write an essay in response to one of the six prescribed titles that are issued by the IB for each examination session. As an external assessment component, it is marked by IB examiners.	2/3 (67%)

E.2 Assessment criteria

TOK exhibition assessment instrument

The TOK exhibition is an opportunity for students to explore links between knowledge questions and the world around us. The assessment of this task is underpinned by the following single driving question.

Does the exhibition successfully show how TOK manifests in the world around us?

The assessment instrument provided describes five levels of performance in response to this driving question. These levels are to be seen as holistic descriptors rather than as a checklist of characteristics. Please note: If a student only provides images and accompanying commentaries for two objects, teachers should award a maximum of 6 marks. If a student only provides an image and accompanying commentary for one object, teachers should award a maximum of 3 marks.

Does the exhibition successfully show how TOK manifests in the world around us?

Excellent 9-10	Good 7-8	Satisfactory 5-6	Basic 3-4	Rudimentary 1-2	0
<p>The exhibition clearly identifies three objects and their specific real-world contexts. Links between each of the three objects and the selected IA prompt are clearly made and well-explained.</p> <p>There is a strong justification of the particular contribution that each individual object makes to the exhibition. All, or nearly all, of the points are well-supported by appropriate evidence and explicit references to the selected IA prompt.</p>	<p>The exhibition identifies three objects and their real-world contexts. Links between each of the three objects and the selected IA prompt are explained, although this explanation may lack precision and clarity in parts.</p> <p>There is a justification of the contribution that each individual object makes to the exhibition. Many of the points are supported by appropriate evidence and references to the selected IA prompt.</p>	<p>The exhibition identifies three objects, although the real-world contexts of these objects may be vaguely or imprecisely stated. There is some explanation of the links between the three objects and the selected IA prompt.</p> <p>There is some justification for the inclusion of each object in the exhibition. Some of the points are supported by evidence and references to the selected IA prompt.</p>	<p>The exhibition identifies three objects, although the real-world contexts of the objects may be implied rather than explicitly stated. Basic links between the objects and the selected IA prompt are made, but the explanation of these links is unconvincing and/or unfocused.</p> <p>There is a superficial justification for the inclusion of each object in the exhibition. Reasons for the inclusion of the objects are offered, but these are not supported by appropriate evidence and/or lack relevance to the selected IA prompt. There may be significant repetition across the justifications of the different objects.</p>	<p>The exhibition presents three objects, but the real-world contexts of these objects are not stated, or the images presented may be highly generic images of types of object rather than of specific real-world objects. Links between the objects and the selected IA prompt are made, but these are minimal, tenuous, or it is not clear what the student is trying to convey.</p> <p>There is very little justification offered for the inclusion of each object in the exhibition. The commentary on the objects is highly descriptive or consists only of unsupported assertions.</p>	<p>The exhibition does not reach the standard described by the other levels or does not use one of the IA prompts provided.</p>
Possible characteristics					
<p>Convincing Lucid Precise</p>	<p>Focused Relevant Coherent</p>	<p>Adequate Competent Acceptable</p>	<p>Simplistic Limited Underdeveloped</p>	<p>Ineffective Descriptive Incoherent</p>	

TOK essay assessment instrument

The TOK essay is an opportunity for students to engage in a formal, sustained piece of writing in response to a prescribed title focused on the areas of knowledge. The assessment of this task is underpinned by the following single driving question.

Does the student provide a clear, coherent and critical exploration of the essay title?

The assessment instrument provided describes five levels of performance in response to this driving question. These levels are to be seen as holistic descriptors rather than as a checklist of characteristics.

Does the student provide a clear, coherent and critical exploration of the essay title?					
Excellent 9-10	Good 7-8	Satisfactory 5-6	Basic 3-4	Rudimentary 1-2	0
The discussion has a sustained focus on the title and is linked effectively to areas of knowledge. Arguments are clear, coherent and effectively supported by specific examples. The implications of arguments are considered. There is clear awareness and evaluation of different points of view.	The discussion is focused on the title and is linked effectively to areas of knowledge. Arguments are clear, coherent and supported by examples. There is awareness and some evaluation of different points of view.	The discussion is focused on the title and is developed with some links to areas of knowledge. Arguments are offered and are supported by examples. There is some awareness of different points of view.	The discussion is connected to the title and makes superficial or limited links to areas of knowledge. The discussion is largely descriptive. Limited arguments are offered but they are unclear and are not supported by effective examples.	The discussion is weakly connected to the title. While there may be links to the areas of knowledge, any relevant points are descriptive or consist only of unsupported assertions.	The discussion does not reach the standard described by the other levels or is not a response to one of the prescribed titles for the correct examination session.
Possible characteristics					
Insightful Convincing Accomplished Lucid	Pertinent Relevant Analytical Organized	Acceptable Mainstream Adequate Competent	Underdeveloped Basic Superficial Limited	Ineffective Descriptive Incoherent Formless	

