

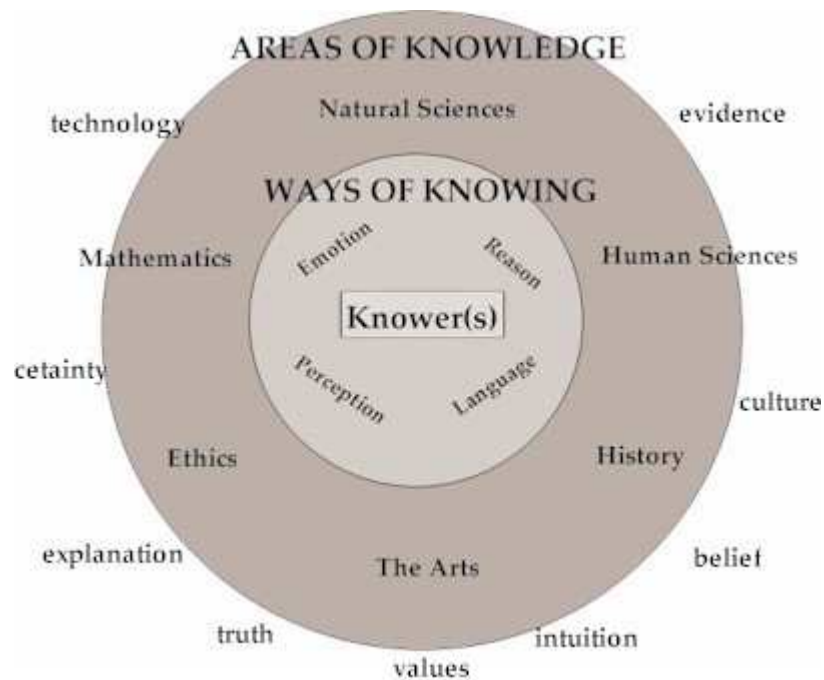
The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is **central** to the educational philosophy of the International Baccalaureate. It challenges students and their teachers to reflect critically on diverse **ways of knowing** and **areas of knowledge**, and to consider the role which knowledge plays in a global society. It encourages students to become aware of themselves as thinkers, to become aware of the complexity of knowledge, and to recognize the need to act responsibly in an increasingly interconnected world.

The TOK programme is composed almost entirely of **questions**. The most central of these questions is “How do I, or how do we, know that a given assertion is true, or a given judgement is well grounded?”

Questions are the very essence of TOK, both ageless questions on which thinkers have been reflecting for centuries and new ones, often challenging to accepted belief, which are posed by contemporary life. Engaging with students in a **critical examination of knowledge**, teachers will foster an **appreciation of the quest for knowledge**, in particular its importance, its complexities, and its human implications. A teacher may hope to bring alive the questions in this guide for a new generation of knowers, and to encourage them to gain and apply their own knowledge with greater awareness and responsibility.

Ways of knowing distinguished in TOK: Emotion, Reason, Language, Perception

Areas of knowledge distinguished in TOK: Natural Sciences, Human Sciences, History, The Arts, Ethics, Mathematics



TOK course is min. 100 hours.

At the end of the course students write a TOK essay on a prescribed title (1200 – 1600 words). TOK and EE can earn them up to 3 additional points on the Diploma.

Keywords for TOK: **central** (to the programme), **interdisciplinary**, **unifies** (the academic areas), (constructed around) **questions**