

Guide to TOK criteria:

Criteria A : Understanding knowledge issues (connections to the TOK course)

This criteria is concerned with how knowledge issues are relevant to the title and these are recognized and developed. These are the processes you have done during TOK – Ways of Knowing and Areas of Knowledge.

Criteria B: Knower's perspective (you as a knower)

This criteria is there to reward the evidence that you can provide for an awareness of the perspectives of others and of **your own**. To do this you must examine the implications of these perspectives and analyze the underlying assumptions made. You will need to use examples.

Criteria C: Quality of analysis of knowledge issues (micro – level aspects)

You not only need to recognize knowledge issues and varying perspective you must also be able to critically analyze the related knowledge claims **you** make. There must be detail, coherence and counter claims. You must very carefully analyze what is written.

Criteria D: Organization of Ideas (macro level aspects; facts references)

Clarity is important and organization of thoughts. Clear paragraphing, and appropriate treatment of factual material. Any sources must be acknowledged.

In your introduction make sure you have identified the KI you want to consider and indicated the AOK and WOK if you are not directed to them in the title.

The main body of the essay should be examples related to discussing the KI and counterclaims.

TOK Y13

Essay Question:

"What is it about mathematics that makes it convincing?" and come up with a KI that turns the title into a question of knowledge. For example, "To what extent is math more reliable than other areas of knowledge?").

Second, take your KI and choose three aspects of knowledge you're going to relate it to: any of the Areas of Knowledge (Mathematics, Human sciences, Natural sciences, the Arts, Ethics, and History) or the Ways of Knowing (Sense perception, Reason, Emotion, Language). Then you can explore these in your essay.

Suggested Essay Formula

The formula has 5 sections and 9 paragraphs overall and specific aspects need to go in each.

Section 1: The Introduction 150-200 words

Paragraph 1

-Give your KI. For example, "To what extent is math more reliable than other areas of knowledge?"

-State your thesis. What is your short answer to the KI (your question of knowledge). "While looking at mathematics, natural science and ethics, we will see that mathematics isn't necessarily more reliable; however, we will see that knowledge is different in different fields."

-Give us a roadmap, a sentence that gives us a preview, showing us what you're going to do in your body paragraphs. Make it clear how you are going to explore the KI, which ways of knowing and/or areas of knowledge you're going to use. This will make it easy for the marker to know what to look for. An example: "Mathematics can be seen as more reliable because it uses reason. Natural science can be less reliable because it relies on observation. And ethics can be less reliable because it is related to the norms of a person's society."

Section 2: Two paragraphs totalling 400 words

Paragraph 2

-Claim. A claim a topic sentence that outlines your argument about the about the KI. For example you could claim that, "Mathematics can be relied on because it is a purely logical system."

-Explain. Elaborate and clarify your claim. "Mathematics is axiomatic and independent of subjective experience."

-Example. A real life example, to clarify and support the claim from your own experience. Examples should be personal, specific, precise and real. Did something happen in your Science class? Did you have a conversation with your or hear a story from your grandfather? These are evidence from your own life rather than examples from Darwin or Lincoln. So you could talk about how, "In mathematics we learned that the inside angles of a triangle, in Euclidian space, sum up to 180 degrees."

Paragraph 3

-Counter-claim. Argue against your claim above. "However, it is possible to come to different conclusions using different systems of mathematics."

-Example. An example that supports your counter claim. "There are different It is not possible to demonstrate that the interior angles of a triangle equal 180 degrees in Euclidian space, this cannot be proven within other systems, such as spherical geometry or hyperbolic geometry."

-Link to KI. Quickly sum up the (complicated) insights of this section. "It is therefore clear that mathematics is reliable to an extent, but often it can only show something to be true within one fixed system or approach."

Section 3: Another two body paragraphs, looking at your second AoK or WoK. Write these using the same approach you saw in paragraphs 2 and 3. 400 words

Paragraph 4

-Claim.

-Explain.

-Example.

Paragraph 5

-Counter-claim.

-Example.

-Link to KI.

Section 3: Another two body paragraphs, looking at your third AoK or WoK. Write these using the same approach you saw in paragraphs 2 and 3. 400 words

Paragraph 6

-Claim.

-**Explain.**

-**Example.**

Paragraph 7

-**Counter-claim.**

-**Example.**

-**Link to K1.**

Section 5: Conclusion with two paragraphs totalling 200-250 words

Paragraph 8

-**Implications and significance.** Why is it important that we know about this?

-**Perspective.** Explain another view that someone may have (i.e. an older person, someone who's had different life experiences than you)

Paragraph 9

-**Sum up the argument.** The thesis again, in short.ⁱ

Obviously you may not need all these paragraphs and you may have used a different structure – this is a formula/ model – not a solution!

ⁱ Tim woods TOK