

CAMPION SCHOOL

Tomorrow Begins Today



CAMPION SCHOOL
Athens

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE

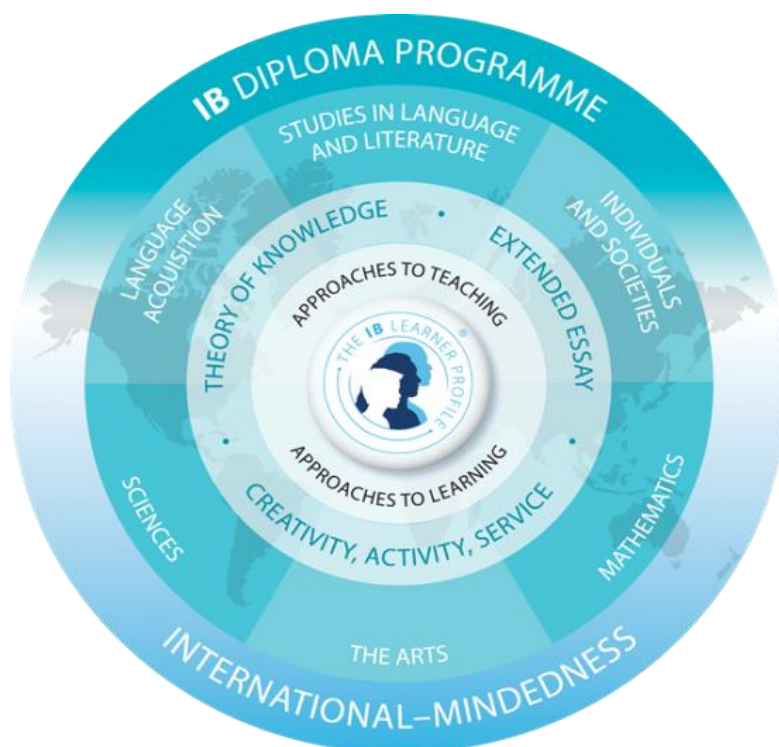
BRIEF GUIDE FOR PARENTS

2020-2021



Theory of Knowledge (TOK) is one of the three core elements of the Diploma Programme, along with **Creativity, Action and Service (CAS)** and the **Extended Essay (EE)**.

The core in the diagram is seen as the heart of the Diploma Programme. Its place at the centre of the diagram reflects the fact that TOK connects to all the other subjects that students take.



TOK is a practical course that is centred on the question ‘**How do we know?**’ and examined in a variety of different contexts. This is a course more about critical thinking, rather than about learning a specific body of knowledge.

Students complete approximately 100 hours of class time over the two-year course.

TOK and the Diploma Programme subjects support each other in the sense that they reference each other and share some common goals. In this way, the learning that takes place in one subject is reinforced in another.

Aims of TOK

The TOK course provides students with an opportunity to explore and reflect on the nature of **knowledge and the process of knowing**. Students are encouraged to have effective conversations that arise from their academic subjects, but also from their

lives outside the classroom. They are urged to develop their critical thinking and intercultural understanding and demonstrate open-mindedness.

The course centres on the exploration of **knowledge questions**, which are a key tool for both teachers and students. Knowledge questions might be about:

- How knowledge is produced, acquired and shared.
- What knowledge is and is not.
- Who has knowledge and who does not.
- Who decides the answers to these questions.

The TOK curriculum

The TOK curriculum consists of **three** deeply interconnected parts:

1. The 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.

2. Optional themes.

Students are required to study **two** optional themes from the following five options.

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

3. Areas of Knowledge

Students are required to study the following **five** areas of knowledge.

- **Mathematics**
- **Natural Sciences**
- **Human Sciences**
- **History**
- **Arts**

TOK Assessment

IB students are assessed in six subjects and can score a maximum of 7 points in each subject. TOK and Extended Essay offer the students the opportunity to score an additional three bonus points.

| | | Theory of knowledge | | | | | |
|----------------|---------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| | | Grade A | Grade B | Grade C | Grade D | Grade E | No grade N |
| Extended essay | Grade A | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | Failing condition | Failing condition |
| | Grade B | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | Failing condition | Failing condition |
| | Grade C | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | Failing condition | Failing condition |
| | Grade D | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | Failing condition | Failing condition |
| | Grade E | Failing condition | Failing condition | Failing condition | Failing condition | Failing condition | Failing condition |
| | No grade N | Failing condition | Failing condition | Failing condition | Failing condition | Failing condition | Failing condition |

The TOK is assessed in two parts:

1. The Exhibition.

Each student is required to create an exhibition of **three objects** that connect to one of the **IA Prompts** (a set of 35 high-level knowledge questions). The students base their exhibition on one of the TOK Themes (either the Core Theme or one of the Optional Themes). A 950-word commentary is internally marked by the teacher, and externally moderated by the IB.

The Presentation is worth 1/3 (33%) of the final mark.

1. Essay on a prescribed title.

Each year, the IB releases six new titles that the students must choose **one**. The essay should not be more than **1,600** words (**not** including acknowledgments, references, diagrams or the bibliography). It is externally marked by the IB examiners. Three formal interactions between the student and the teacher are required and must be recorded on the **Planning and Progress Form** (TK/PPF).

The essay is worth 2/3 (67%) of the final mark.

Internal Deadlines: Please see the Calendar of Deadlines

- TOK Exhibition: completed during IB1
- TOK Essay: handed in and assessed in IB2