

TOK Essay Checklist

In order to help you produce the best possible TOK essay, here is a checklist for you to run through **before you hand the essay in** so that you can iron out any silly mistakes / obvious omissions yourself so that your teachers can focus on the more important / more complicated issues when they are giving you feedback.

	😊	😐	☹️
Criterion A: Understanding Knowledge Issues (10 marks)			
Am I certain that my essay answer the question as it is set? Have I been really careful to pick out all the key words in the question and understand their implications, even if they are not 'TOK' words?			
Have I included the BLURS / TOK concepts such as truth, belief, certainty and knowledge or references to the AOKs or to the WOKs?			
Have I considered whether my answer to the question in the AOK of Maths will be different to the answer I would get if I considered the same question in the AOK of the Arts? Will the answer be different if I consider reason to if I consider emotion?			
Criterion B: Knower's Perspective (10 marks)			
Have I considered the perspectives that other people might take on this issue or question?			
Have I examined how those perspectives may differ from my own and, most importantly, what factors (e.g. their religion, culture, the age in which they live, etc) have caused these other people to have the perspective that they do?			
Have I shown awareness of the factors (e.g. my age, gender, personality, social class, race, personal history) that bias and influence my own perspective?			
Have I used good examples from a variety of different sources such as academic articles, newspapers, my own experience and thought experiments?			
Criterion C: Quality of Analysis (10 marks)			
Do I support / prove my overall answer with a persuasive, sensible argument that is broken down into a series of clear and well argued steps?			
Have I got about 4 -6 obviously different main arguments or ideas that are developed in depth?			
Have I considered the counterclaims against my position, an evaluation of how strong these arguments against me are and a response to them that either attacks back or reaches a compromise between their position and mine?			
Have I discussed the important implications of my argument, possibly by considering how my answer in this situation would transfer to a new situation? For example if I am against abortion in all situations because I believe that killing is always wrong, then I should be against war in all situations because war, obviously, is also killing.			
Have I considered the assumptions that underpin my argument and without which it would not be valid?			
Criterion D: Organisation of Ideas (10 marks)			
Have I clarified any key terms with personal (not dictionary) definitions?			
Does my essay have a logical introduction, main body and conclusion structure?			
Have I got a clear 'topic sentence' at the start or end (or both) of each paragraph to make the subject of that paragraph obvious to reader and to make it clear how that paragraph links back to / answers the question?			
Have I identified all my sources clearly by using footnotes within my essay and a bibliography at the back?			
Is my essay between 1200 and 1600 words long?			