

Course Start

Course Start is independent learning you need to complete as a fundamental part of your introduction to the course. It should take you approximately 1.5 hours to complete.

Course Name	Theory of Knowledge
How this Course Start fits into the first term of the course	This Course Start is an introduction to Theory of Knowledge. It teaches about what ToK is and gives some examples about how to do it. It helps you to understand that good critical thinkers are always prepared to investigate how they know what they know.
How will my Course Start learning be used in lessons?	We will discuss your answers and talk about the importance of considering the nature and scope of knowledge claims, of the tools used to acquire knowledge and of who gets to say what knowledge is. We will check your understanding by discussing your answers and hearing how other people understood and interpreted the questions.
Course Start learning objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● To test comprehension ● To encourage you to think creatively ● To help you consider the importance of terminology ● To introduce you to some ToK terminology ● To think about knowledge, perception and the world
Study Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reading, research and comprehension ● Using terminology correctly ● Thinking creatively ● Spotting arguments ● Getting organised ● Questioning assumptions

Expectations for: IB Theory of Knowledge

Our specification is: IB Diploma

What this course involves

One 1.5 hour lesson a week.

Attend all lessons and complete the following two pieces of coursework:

- TOK Exhibition (internally assessed). Completed Summer of Year 1.
- TOK Essay on a prescribed title released in Sept (externally assessed). Completed Spring of Year 2.

This course involves investigating a huge variety of knowledge questions. Knowledge questions are about how **knowledge is produced, acquired, shared and used; what it is and what it is not; who has it and who does not; and who decides the answers to these questions.**

Instead of focusing on subject-specific content or specific examples, students focus on **how knowledge is constructed and evaluated.** In this sense, knowledge questions are distinct from many of the questions that students encounter in their other subjects.

Be prepared to change your mind! Knowledge questions are contestable in that there are a number of plausible answers to them.

Dealing with these open contestable questions is a key feature of TOK, answers to a question may differ—what matters is that the analysis is thorough, accurate and effectively supported by examples and evidence.

Homework tasks for ToK are minimal until you start working on your coursework. Although really, you should be thinking about ToK issues all the time and in every lesson.

Discussing and developing good oracy and aural skills.

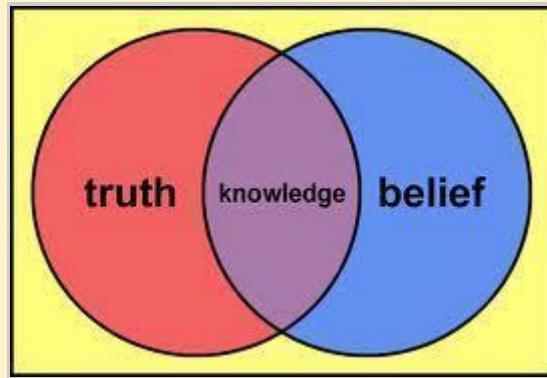
ToK is taught through **discussion**. So be prepared to discuss your ideas in lessons. This will involve whole and small group discussions.

You will be asked to give **presentations** but most importantly, you will be expected to **listen respectfully to the views of others and respond to their views by adopting the principle of charity.**

Be prepared for very enjoyable discussions!

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE (TOK) TASKS

Welcome to TOK at Varndean!



The following tasks need to be completed before arriving at your first lesson. Make sure you read task 7 first. They should take you about two hours.

TASK 1 Getting Equipped

In order to succeed at TOK you will need to come to the lessons prepared with work organised. You will be required to make notes, read widely, reflect and identify links between your subjects and prepare for lessons.

To keep all this work organised, I recommend that you create a ToK Logbook. Use loose-leaf paper and an A4 ring-binder folder that you can put notes, handouts and other material in. Keep your ToK Logbook in good, well-organised condition for revision and review of previous lessons that will be invaluable when you are completing your ToK Exhibition assignment (Summer yr1) and ToK Essay (Autumn yr2).

You will be asked to show that you have these materials in your first lesson.

- A ring binder folder with subject dividers
- A4 hole punched paper
- Writing pens
- Highlighter pens
- USB pen

TASK 2 Historical research

Discover the date at which the Second World War began. Note down your conclusions.

TASK 3 Draw a Cognitive Map

Draw a map of Brighton from memory or general knowledge. **Do not consult any source of information to complete this task no matter how minimal your knowledge of Brighton is.**

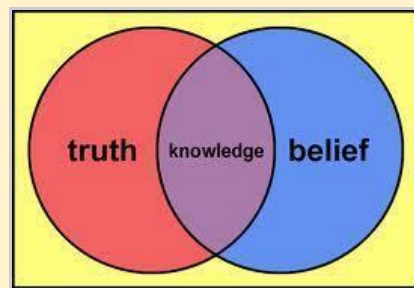
Please don't be tempted to consult a map or ask others, just do the task as stated and it will reveal something to you in our first lesson.

TASK 4 Sensory Perception

Examine this figure and then write one paragraph explaining why sensory perception is not a passive process.



TASK 5 Knowledge and Belief



Research the terms 'knowledge' and 'belief' on the internet. Explain how we might distinguish these two terms in no more than two paragraphs.

TASK 6 Find something interesting for the Google Classroom Stream

At Varndean College we use Google Classroom, you will have your own Gmail account and access to loads of Google Apps. There is a special Google Classroom for ToK which you will join on your first lesson. Please search for and find an interesting video from <https://www.ted.com/talks> that you can post on the Google Classroom Stream during your first lesson. (I will show you how to do this). Be prepared to tell the class:

1. Why you are interested in your video of choice.
2. What methods the speaker used to gain their knowledge.

TASK 7 Presentation

Under the title "An introduction to Theories of Knowledge" put all your written work and your cognitive map into a format that is neat and well presented for submission at the end of your first lesson.

Remember your presentation of this information is one of the first impressions I will have of you – make it good!