

Summary

Introduction to the TOK course

Subject	Year	Start date	Duration
Theory of Knowledge	IB1	Week 1, September	2 weeks 4 hours

Course Part

Introduction to the theory of knowledge course

Description

In order to appreciate the value of TOK, you must first learn the story of Henny Penny the chicken. Henny's story begins when an unknown object falls on her head and she is thus convinced that the 'sky is falling'. Although holding such a belief isn't really that terrible, Henny Penny runs around the farm making her sky-falling claim to all the other animals, who all believe it and take it as truth that the sky is indeed falling. The animals decide to notify the King that the sky is falling so that he may take precautions to save the kingdom, and while en route they come across Foxy Loxy. Being kind animals, they inform Foxy Loxy of the impending danger.

The problem is, Foxy Loxy has studied TOK.

Being a good TOK student, instead of simply taking Henny Penny's claim as truth, Foxy Loxy asks Henny Penny *why* she thinks the sky is falling? As Henny Penny finishes her explanation that a piece of the sky hit her on the head, Foxy Loxy notices a large oak tree in the distance. Foxy Loxy offers all the animals a short cut to the King through his den; and the animals are never seen again.

Inquiry & Purpose

Inquiry / Higher Order Questions

Type

Inquiry Questions

Concept-based

The acquisition of knowledge is a process that occurs over time and is affected by a variety of factors, discuss and analyze these factors.

Curriculum

Aims

The aims of the TOK course are:

to encourage students to reflect on the central question, "How do we know that?", and to recognize the value of asking that question

Objectives

Having completed the TOK course, students should be able to:

demonstrate TOK thinking through the critical examination of knowledge questions

Syllabus Content

Knowledge questions

The TOK curriculum centres around the exploration of knowledge questions. Knowledge questions are crucial to effective TOK discussions as they help to make sure that students are focusing on questions about knowledge itself and about how we know things. Knowledge questions help students to move beyond subject-specific questions or specific real-life situations into the realm of TOK.

ATL Skills

Approaches to Learning

Thinking

- In this unit, we will

give students time to think through their answers before asking them for a response

ask open questions

set students a task which required higher-order thinking skills (such as analysis or evaluation)

Developing IB Learners

Learner Profile



Thinkers



Open-minded