1.5 The TOK exhibition

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

KEY WORDS exhibition • IA prompt • object • real-world context • justification

Objective

Prepare the **TOK exhibition** : choose **one** of the IA prompts, select **three objects** with real-world contexts, and write a commentary that justifies each object's link to the prompt (about 950 words in total; 10 marks; one third of the TOK grade).

You must be able to:

- choose an IA prompt that fits your interests
- select specific objects with real contexts
- justify each object's link to the prompt
- use TOK concepts and evidence in the commentary
- avoid common mistakes

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

The task

- Choose **one** of the **35 IA prompts**, e.g. *"What counts as knowledge?"*, *"Who owns knowledge?"*, *"Does some knowledge belong only to particular communities of knowers?"*
- Choose **three objects** (or images of objects) that show how TOK appears in the world around us. Each must have a **specific real-world context**: *your* grandmother's recipe notebook, not "a recipe"; a particular news headline on a date, not "the news".
- Write a commentary: about 300 words per object, **950 words** at most in total, explaining each object, its context and its **link to the prompt**, with evidence.

Marking (10 marks)

Examiners look for: objects with real contexts; clear, well-explained links to the prompt; justified reasons for including each object; TOK concepts; no contradiction between objects.

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Common mistakes

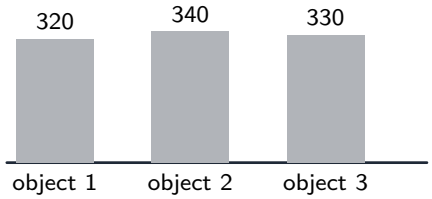
Generic objects; describing the object without linking to the prompt; three objects that make the same point; writing about the subject, not about knowledge.

Worked object. Prompt: *"Who owns knowledge?"* Object: the patent certificate for a medical device developed at a local university (2019). Link: patents give legal ownership of knowledge for a limited time (usually 20 years), which rewards inventors but limits who may use it.

2 Practice

2.1 State **two** features of a strong exhibition object. [2]

2.2 The commentary limit is 950 words for three objects. If a student writes 320, 340 and 330 words, calculate the total and the excess, and suggest **one** way to cut words without losing marks. [3]

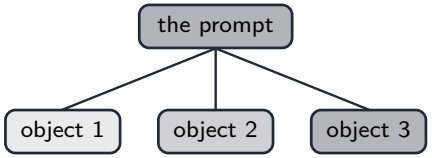


2.3 Explain why "a photo of a library" is a weak object for the prompt "Who owns knowledge?", and suggest a better one. [4]

2.4 Write the **justification** paragraph for an object of your choice and the prompt "What counts as knowledge?" [6]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(Exhibition-style.)* For the prompt "**Are some types of knowledge more useful than others?**", choose **three** objects and write a short plan: object, context, link and what makes each object different from the others. [10]



3.2 Explain **two** differences between the TOK **exhibition** and the TOK **essay**. [5]

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Solutions

Marking: **M1** a correct method, **A1** the correct answer, **B1** an independent mark.

Each answer shows the steps, then the **result**.

2.1

a specific object with a real-world context (named, dated, located); a clear, explained link to the chosen prompt

2.2

$320 + 340 + 330 = 990$; excess = **40** words; cut description of the object that does not support the link to the prompt; keep the justification and TOK concepts, which carry the marks

2.3

it is generic: no specific real-world context; the link to ownership is unclear; a better object, e.g. a specific paywalled journal article the student could not access, with date; with a reason, e.g. shows publishers control access to knowledge

2.4

specific object with context; clear link to the prompt; explains why this object was chosen over others; TOK concept used, e.g. evidence, certainty, justification; evidence or reference to the object's details; clear, precise language

3.1

Mark with the TOK markbands (out of 10): [9-10] excellent: clear, focused, convincing links, well-chosen examples, implications explored; [7-8] good: focused, mostly clear links, relevant examples; [5-6] satisfactory: some focus, links partly explained; [3-4] basic: limited links, description more than analysis; [1-2] rudimentary. Points that may be included: three specific objects with real contexts; each linked to the prompt; links explained, not just stated; the objects show different points or perspectives; TOK concepts used; justification for each choice

3.2

exhibition: internal assessment, marked by the teacher and moderated; essay: external, marked by the IB; exhibition: about 950 words on three objects; essay: up to 1,600 words on a prescribed title; exhibition counts for one third; essay two thirds; exhibition starts from the real world (objects); essay from a general question; exhibition chooses one of 35 IA prompts; essay one of six prescribed titles

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