Exercise walk-through

1.5
The TOK exhibition

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Theory of Knowledge

The essay on a prescribed title

- Unpack: an expert is a person with training who is trusted by a community; "important" can mean useful, or necessary.
- Natural sciences: peer review by experts catches mistakes before results are accepted.
- **Counterclaim**: experts rejected Marshall's evidence for years; in the end the evidence, not the experts' opinion, decided.

Sources for this lesson

- International Baccalaureate, *__Theory of Knowledge__ guide* (first assessment 2022), including the specimen prescribed titles and the 35 __exhibition__ prompts.
- International Astronomical Union, Resolution B5, "Definition of a Planet in the Solar System" (24 August 2006).
- B. Marshall and J. R. Warren, "Unidentified curved bacilli in the stomach of patients with gastritis and peptic ulceration", *The Lancet* (16 June 1984), and the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2005.

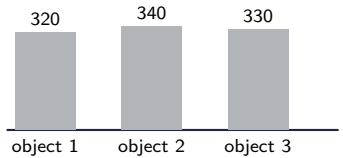
Key terms

- **Knowledge question**: an open, general question about knowledge itself, not about the subject matter.
- **Perspective**: the point of view, shaped by language, culture, education and interests, from which a knower sees.
- **Confirmation bias**: noticing evidence that supports what we already believe and ignoring the rest.

Exercises 2.1·2.2

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]



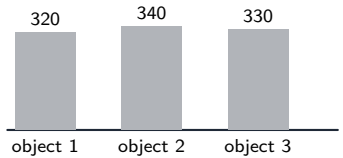
Exercises 2.1·2.2

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2.1

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

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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

Exercises 2.3·2.4

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]

Exercises 2.3·2.4

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]

2.3

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

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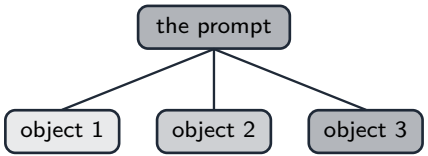
2.4 Write the **justification** paragraph for an object of your choice and the prompt “What counts as knowledge?” [6]

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

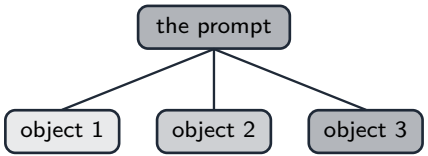
Exercise 3.1

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]



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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

Exercise 3.2

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

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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