

## 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. This will enable your teachers to focus on the more important / more complicated issues when they are giving you feedback.

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<b>Focus on the Question!</b>			
I am certain that my essay answers the question exactly as it is set. I have identified the key knowledge question raised by the essay title and I have spent all of my time focusing on that question or other related knowledge questions that have come up as a result of my exploration.			
I have clarified any key terms with personal (not dictionary) definitions and I offered those definitions at the point when they became relevant in the essay rather than just in a long list at the start.			
I offer a persuasive and sensible answer to the question that is broken down into a series of clear and well argued sub-points. Each sub-point makes a different point and is developed in depth and detail.			
<b>Different Perspectives</b>			
I have considered different perspectives that might be taken to this issue by exploring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the perspective of experts from the different AOKs, e.g. the scientist vs. the artist</li> <li>• different cultural, historical, philosophical or political perspectives</li> <li>• different schools of thought within an AOK, e.g. revisionist vs. post-revisionist historians</li> <li>• whether the answer is different if we are talking about personal or shared knowledge</li> </ul>			
<b>Overall Structure</b>			
My essay has a clear and concise introduction that briefly outlines the flavour of my argument but without going into too much depth and without starting to argue.			
The main body paragraphs of my essay begin and end with clear 'topic sentences' that clarify the subject of that paragraph and make it clear how the ideas being discussed here link back to the overall title and answer the question.			
I have a conclusion that clearly sums up the position that I have argued for throughout my essay. No new information is presented and there are no surprises but I have gone on to consider the implications that my overall position might have in other situations / AOKs / WOKs.			
<b>Quality of Argument</b>			
I have used original examples from a variety of different sources such as the news, academic research articles and my own personal (often school-based) experiences.			
I have considered the counterclaims that could be raised against my position, evaluated how strong these arguments against me are and responded to them effectively by either attacking them back or reaching a compromise between their position and mine?			
I have explored 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 does that mean I should be against war in all situations because war, obviously, also involves killing.			
I have considered the validity of the assumptions that underpin my argument and explored the reasons for thinking that they might not be valid and the consequences of this.			
<b>... And Finally</b>			
I have identified all my sources clearly by using in text citations within my essay and a bibliography on a separate page at the end.			
My essay is about 1600 words long.			