

TOK Essay Plan Checklist

In order to help you produce the best possible TOK essay plan, here is a checklist for you to run through **before you hand the plan 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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Focus on the Question!			
My plan focuses 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 exploring that question or other related knowledge questions that are clearly linked to the bigger overall question.			
My plan clarifies any key terms with personal (not dictionary) definitions and those definitions have been used to 'open up' the discussion of the question into new and interesting areas rather than narrowing it down to consider just one definition of a term.			
Quality of Argument			
My plan outlines a series of points that are all focused on knowledge questions related to the overall bigger question and which are clearly different from one another. There is no repetition of points or ideas.			
My plan outlines a series of points that all seem convincing and credible. To score really highly here the ideas need to be beyond simply being convincing and credible – they should be interesting, insightful or sophisticated.			
My plan supports each point with an original example taken from a variety of different sources such as the news, academic research articles and my own personal (often school-based) experiences.			
My plan contains counterclaims that are credible and present a real and interesting challenge to the original point being made. They are not there just because I need a counterclaim to fill out that section of the plan.			
My plan contains responses that evaluate how strong these counterclaims are and that responds to them effectively by either attacking them back or reaching a compromise between their position and mine?			
Different Perspectives			
<p>My plan considers different perspectives that might be taken on this issue by exploring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the perspective of experts from the different AOKs, e.g. the scientist vs. the artist • different cultural, historical, philosophical or political perspectives • different schools of thought within an AOK, e.g. revisionist vs. post-revisionist historians • whether the answer is different if we are talking about personal or shared knowledge <p>Often these different perspectives may appear in counterclaims as a way of arguing against a previous point.</p>			
Implications & Assumptions			
At some point, perhaps the conclusion, my plan explores 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.			
At some point, perhaps also the conclusion, my plan considers the validity of the assumptions that underpin my argument and either justifies those assumptions or explores what the consequences might be if they are wrong.			