

Identifying Knowledge Questions

Good	<p>Should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an open ended question • explicitly about knowledge • couched in terms of TOK vocabulary and concepts • precise in terms of the relationships between these concepts 	What is it about a scientific explanation that makes it convincing or unconvincing?	To what extent can the human sciences use mathematical techniques to make accurate predictions?	How can reason be used to justify religious belief?	Is the ability to make predictions a valid measure of a theories scientific worth?	What role should emotion play in justifying capital punishment?
Intermediate	<p>May be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an open ended question • explicitly about knowledge 	How can we decide if acupuncture works or not?	How can we use models to predict crime waves?	Are religious beliefs reasonable?	Why didn't scientists predict the 2004 earthquake and Tsunami?	How can we know if capital punishment is right or wrong?
Poor	<p>May be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a closed question • only implicitly about knowledge 	Does acupuncture work?	Will predictions that knife crime is increasing turn out to be correct?	How do religious people come to their beliefs	Why do tsunamis happen?	Capital punishment: why should we or shouldn't we adopt it?
Not a Knowledge Question	<p>May be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a statement or description of a situation • a closed question • a subject specific topic question rather than a question about knowledge itself 	Traditional Medicine	Stopping teenage knife crime	Physics and God	Tsunamis & Earthquakes	The execution of Saddam Hussein
Real Life Situation	This could be the 'real life situation' from the presentation or an example from the essay	My uncle went to an acupuncturist	A new government policy on crime	An article on science and religion	The 2004 Tsunami	A book: The Execution of Saddam Hussein

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Intermediate	<p>May be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an open ended question • explicitly about knowledge • 	Should we believe paranormal claims?				
Poor	<p>May be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a closed question • only implicitly about knowledge 	Does the paranormal exist?	Why is Utilitarianism appealing?	Is swine flu likely to kill millions?		
Not a Knowledge Question	<p>May be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a statement or description of a situation • a closed question • a subject specific topic question rather than a question about knowledge itself 	What is the sixth sense?	Utilitarianism	What do we mean by an epidemic?	The global financial crisis	
Real Life Situation	<p>This could be the ‘real life situation’ from the presentation or an example from the essay</p>	A film on haunting	A patriotic poster say ‘Buy Thai’, it’s good for everyone	A news report on swine flu	An interview with bankers who have just lost their jobs	Your own topic