

The TOK assessed essay

Electronic submission

- Details can be found on the IBO website in the document ‘Theory of Knowledge: Understanding Knowledge Issues’.
- Students upload essays electronically to <https://candidates.ibo.org>. They log in using their six-character IB code **plus** a PIN issued by their school’s IB Coordinator.
- The essay is then passed electronically to the teacher for marking and authentication.
- The IB Coordinator then submits it to the IB with their marks. The deadline is about three weeks after the deadline for essay upload.
- The IBO sends it electronically to an examiner for marking.

Timing of TOK essay submission

There is a two-month ‘window’ for submission. Specific dates are set by the IBO but it is approximately as follows:

- May exams: mid-January to mid-March submission of essay
- November exams: mid-July to mid-September submission.

It is suggested that an internal school deadline of the end of term 4 of the IB course is set.

Essay titles

A set list of possible titles is published by the IB in the annually updated ‘Handbook of Procedures for the Diploma Programme’. Students must be careful to stick **exactly** to the set title.

What to aim for to gain top marks

Assessment criterion	Maximum marks	What to aim for
A Understanding knowledge issues	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focuses on knowledge issues relevant to title • Compares, contrasts and links areas of knowledge with ways of knowing in detail • Sophisticated understanding of knowledge issues and/or ways of knowing
B Knower’s perspective	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent thinking about knowledge issues related to title • Connected to own experience as a knower • Personal, in-depth exploration of knowledge issues • Significant self-awareness of self as a knower • Serious consideration of different perspectives • Varied examples are used effectively

C Quality of analysis of knowledge issues	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explored with high degree of insight • Explored with considerable depth • All main points justified • Arguments make sense and are compelling • Counter-arguments evaluated • Underlying assumptions recognised
D Organisation of ideas	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well structured • Concepts explained and developed clearly • Actual information supporting arguments is correct • Sources of information/ideas acknowledged and traceable • Max. 1600 words

(Adapted from the IBO TOK Essay assessment criteria.)

Red = subjective marking criteria in IB TOK mark schemes