



## Understanding TOK mark schemes

### TOK assessment

Learning and questioning for the sake of learning and questioning may lead to some very valuable intellectual growth, but if this is not reflected in IB points and university entry there may be some unhappy students, parents, teachers and head teachers.

It is therefore necessary to fully understand the marking criteria of TOK assessment. If one understands the target, one can work on providing the theoretical knowledge, skills, critical understanding and inspiration to hit it.

### Assessments

#### 1 The TOK class presentation (20 points)

- 10 minutes (approx.) per student
- + plan
- + summary in note form
- + teacher and student justifications of assessment scores

Group presentations are allowable: max. 5 students per group, but 2–3 seems to work best.

#### 2 The TOK essay (40 points)

- 1200–1600 words chosen from a list of 10 titles issued annually by the IBO.

Marks for TOK and the extended essay (EE) are combined for conversion into diploma points. The significance of TOK is thus apparent:

TOK essay and EE score	Points needed for IB Diploma
E in both <b>or</b> do not submit one	No diploma
E in TOK <b>or</b> EE	28 points instead of 24

Out of 16 possible diploma-earning TOK and EE mark combinations:

- five (31.25%) only score 1 IB point
- three (18.75%) score 0 points.

That means there is a significant chance of not scoring many IB points as a result of TOK and EE efforts. The necessity to know how to score points for TOK thus becomes obvious, especially if university entry depends on IB points scored.



### TOK grade boundaries

**Note:** These boundaries may change.

<b>A</b>	48–60 marks
<b>B</b>	38–47 marks
<b>C</b>	29–37 marks
<b>D</b>	19–28 marks
<b>E</b>	0–18 marks → <b>diploma requirement goes up from 24 to 28 points</b>

(Source: IBO November 2009/May 2010 Subject Reports. Theory of Knowledge. Available on the teachers' area of the IBO website.)