



**THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE**  
**GUIDE FOR PARENTS**

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## **VISION**

To provide a legacy in education which promotes qualities of open-mindedness, tolerance and respect for others, which will provide a best practice model for the future of students from all nations in Gabon.

## **MISSION**

To become Africa's most enterprising school, focusing on sustainability and innovation to play a significant role in Gabon's and in Africa's education.

## **VALUES**

### **EXCELLENCE**

We strive for excellence in every aspect of life: in human relations, in one's abilities and expectations.

### **RESPECT**

We respect ourselves, our environment, and each other.

### **VIRTUES**

We value truth and honesty, tolerance, integrity and responsibility.

## **VISION**

Transmettre un héritage dans le domaine de l'éducation qui valorise les qualités d'ouverture d'esprit, de tolérance et du respect de l'autre, offrant ainsi un modèle de pratiques exemplaires pour l'avenir de tous les élèves vivant au Gabon, quel que soit leur pays d'origine.

## **MISSION**

Devenir l'école la plus dynamique d'Afrique, mettant l'accent sur la pérennité et l'innovation, afin de jouer un rôle important dans l'éducation au Gabon et dans toute l'Afrique.

## **VALEURS**

### **EXCELLENCE**

Dans tous les aspects de la vie : dans les relations humaines, dans les aptitudes personnelles et les attentes.

### **RESPECT**

Le respect envers nous-mêmes, envers les autres et notre environnement.

### **VERTUS**

nous valorisons la vérité et l'honnêteté, la tolérance, l'intégrité et la responsabilité.

## INTRODUCTION

TOK is a required core subject in the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme. It receives a letter grade like the Extended Essay, and combines with the latter to contribute numerically (maximum 3 marks) to the awarding of the full IB Diploma.

The overall aim of TOK is to encourage students to formulate answers to the questions “how do you know” in a variety of contexts, and to see the value of that question. This allows students to develop an enduring fascination with the richness of knowledge. Specifically, the aims of the TOK course are for students to:

- make connections between a critical approach to the construction of knowledge, the academic disciplines and the wider world,
- develop an awareness of how individuals and communities construct knowledge and how this is critically examined,
- develop an interest in the diversity and richness of cultural perspectives and an awareness of personal and ideological assumptions,
- critically reflect on their beliefs and assumptions, leading to more thoughtful, responsible and purposeful lives,
- understand that knowledge brings responsibility which leads to commitment and action

## **SECTION 1 - CURRICULUM**

The TOK curriculum is made up of three deeply interconnected parts.

### **1.1 - The core theme - Knowledge and the knower**

This theme encourages students to reflect on themselves as knowers and thinkers, and to consider the different communities of knowers to which we belong.

### **1.2 - Optional themes**

This element provides an opportunity to take a more in-depth look at two themes of particular interest to teachers and students. The given themes all have a significant impact on the world today and play a key role in shaping people's perspectives and identities. Teachers select two optional themes from a choice of five: knowledge and technology; knowledge and language; knowledge and politics; knowledge and religion; and knowledge and indigenous societies.

### **1.3 - Areas of knowledge**

The areas of knowledge (AOK) are specific branches of knowledge, each of which can be seen to have a distinct nature and sometimes use different methods of gaining knowledge. In TOK, students explore five compulsory areas of knowledge: history; the human sciences; the natural sciences; mathematics; and the arts.

## **SECTION 2 - ASSESSMENT**

### **2.1 - The Exhibition**

The TOK exhibition assesses the ability of the student to show how TOK manifests in the world around us. For the exhibition, students are required to create an exhibition of three objects that connect to one of 35 "IA prompts". Students must select just one IA prompt on which to base their exhibition, and all three objects must be linked to the same IA prompt. The exhibition is worth 33% of the TOK assessment

## 2.2 - The Essay

Each year, the IB prescribes six titles that the students can choose to write about. Each title asks a generic question that crosses disciplines. As students answer the question, they should demonstrate their ability to use the tools of TOK, such as Areas of Knowledge and Ways of Knowing, to discuss claims and counterclaims and formulate their own conclusion. The essay should not be more than 1,600 words, not including acknowledgements, references, diagrams or the bibliography. The essay is worth 67% of the TOK assessment.

## SECTION 3 - TIMELINE

### 3.1 - Year 12

Term 1	Introduction to TOK; Core Theme - Knowledge & the Knower;
Term2	Optional Themes 1&2; The Areas of Knowledge; The Exhibition
Term 3	The Exhibition; Closing analysis of Core Theme

### 3.2 - Year 13

Term 1	TOK Essay
Term 2	TOK Essay