

As a result of several queries received in regards to the **TOK May 2018 prescribed titles**, we would like to provide further clarification to ensure that the expectations for the titles are clear for everyone.

We ask coordinators to please communicate these clarifications to TOK teachers.

Prescribed title 4 currently reads: *"Suspension of disbelief" is an essential feature of theatre. Is it essential in other areas of knowledge? Develop your answer with reference to two areas of knowledge.*" The title states that 'suspension of disbelief' is an essential feature of theatre, a discipline within the area of knowledge of the arts. Ideally, the candidate will need to explain/unpack to some extent what "suspension of disbelief" might mean in theatre in order to open up the analysis. The title then asks "Is it essential in other areas of knowledge?", which means the candidate needs to discuss suspension of disbelief in two additional areas of knowledge other than the arts.

Prescribed titles 1 and 5 make reference to "academic disciplines".

The term "discipline" in a prescribed title refers to an established academic subject.

Some areas of knowledge include a collection of disciplines whereas others comprise just a single discipline. Hence, for example, biology and chemistry are disciplines with the natural sciences as an area of knowledge, and economics and anthropology are disciplines within the human sciences as an area of knowledge, and theatre and music are disciplines within the arts as an area of knowledge. These are disciplines, but not areas of knowledge in themselves.

But history, mathematics and ethics, while also being disciplines, also each belong to their own area of knowledge respectively. They are disciplines and areas of knowledge.

Where a title asks for the candidate to address areas of knowledge, individual disciplines within the composite areas of knowledge (natural sciences, human sciences, arts - if selected) may be addressed as part of the analysis, but care should be taken that they are plausibly representative of those areas of knowledge.

Where a title explicitly asks for disciplines, that is what is required and not a general treatment of those areas of knowledge that consist themselves of more than one discipline as above. A treatment of two disciplines within the same area of knowledge would be one legitimate approach in these circumstances, but candidates should ensure that such a comparison can generate enough contrast for worthwhile conclusions about knowledge to be drawn.