

Orange Unified School District
THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE IB
Year Course

GRADE LEVEL: 12

PREREQUISITES: IB candidate or approval of instructor and IB coordinator

INTRODUCTION TO THE SUBJECT:

This compulsory one year course for all senior International Baccalaureate diploma candidates aims to enable them to unify the knowledge they have acquired in a dispersed fashion during the course of their schooling. It asks the students to pause and reflect on the nature of that knowledge as a whole and put into perspective what they already know. Ultimately through this reflection students will perceive the links and similarities between different subjects and learn to think and apply interrelated concepts.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

BY THE END OF THE COURSE THE STUDENT WILL BE ABLE TO:

Demonstrate the following both orally and in written form:

Clarity of thought and coherence of ideas with appropriate degree of explicitness, originality, grammatical correctness, and relevance to main topic.

Ability to perceive general principles illustrated by concrete examples.

Capacity for critical self-awareness.

Gain a perspective which allows knowledge to be viewed as a unity.

Develop an ability to question and understand the fundamental natures of the disciplines studied and how they compare with each other.

Discern what in any subject distinguishes the subjective from the objective, the particular from the universal, opinion from scientific knowledge.

Promote better ways of thinking rather than acquiring more knowledge.

Ability to reflect critically on diverse ways of knowing and on areas of knowledge.

Ability to consider the role and nature of knowledge in their own culture, in the cultures of others and in the wider world.

Ability to be aware of themselves as thinkers, encouraging them to become more acquainted with the complexity of knowledge.

Ability recognize the need to act responsibly in an increasingly interconnected but uncertain world.

COURSE OVERVIEW AND APPROXIMATE UNIT TIME ALLOTMENTS:

FIRST SEMESTER

WEEKS

- I. Introduction
- A. Basis/sources of knowledge
- B. Knowledge by acquaintance and description
- C. Ways of acquiring propositional knowledge
- D. Opinion
- E. Truth

4-5

Reference Chapters:

Thinking Through Philosophy:
Chapter 2 Theory of Knowledge
Cambridge

The Story of Philosophy:
The Greeks and Their World
DK Publishing

- II. Language and Logic
- A. Uses of language
- B. Recognizing arguments
- C. Informal fallacies
- D. Syllogisms

4-5

Reference Chapters:

Thinking Through Philosophy:
Chapter 1 Metaphysics
Chapter 2 Theory of Knowledge
Cambridge

The Story of Philosophy:
The Great Rationalists
20th Century Philosophy
DK Publishing

WEEKS

- III. Scientific Activity
- A. Modes of thought
 - B. Scientific method/hypothesis
 - C. Paradigms

4-5

Reference Chapters:

Thinking Through Philosophy:
Chapter 4 Philosophy of Science
Cambridge

The Story of Philosophy:
The Beginnings of Modern Science
DK Publishing

- IV. Mathematics and Reality
- A. Modes of thought
 - B. Axioms, symbols
 - C. Rules of inference

4-5

Reference Chapters:

Thinking Through Philosophy:
Chapter 1 Metaphysics
Cambridge

- V. Human Science
- A. Differences between physical and social sciences
 - B. Example of social science psychology

4-5

Reference Chapters:

Thinking Through Philosophy:
Chapter 3 Philosophy of the Mind
Cambridge

SECOND SEMESTER

- I. Historical Knowledge
- A. Sources, truth, methods, uses

3-4

Reference Chapters:

Thinking Through Philosophy:
Chapter 6 Political Philosophy
Cambridge

The Story of Philosophy:
A Golden Century of German Philosophy
Democracy and Philosophy
Revolutionary French Thinkers
DK Publishing

WEEKS

- II. Moral Judgment
- A. Reason, conscience, feelings, tradition
- B. Belief, Faith and Religion

4-5

Reference Chapters:

Thinking Through Philosophy:
Chapter 5 Ethics
Chapter 8 Philosophy of Religion
Cambridge

- III. Political Judgment
- A. Public virtue, private virtue
- B. Political authority

2-3

Reference Chapters:

Thinking Through Philosophy:
Chapter 6 Political Philosophy
Cambridge

The Story of Philosophy:
The Great Empiricists
Revolutionary French Thinkers
DK Publishing

- IV. Aesthetic Judgment
- A. Subjective and objective elements
- B. Functions of Art
- C. What is beauty, creativity?

2-3

Reference Chapters:

Thinking Through Philosophy:
Chapter 7 Philosophy of Art
Cambridge

- V. Conclusions

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