Knowledge Questions Formative Quiz

This will not be graded. Working through this quiz will help you understand how the IBO defines a "good" Knowledge question. The IBO definition is much narrower than how we might use the term "Knowledge Question" in everyday conversation.

As long as we are playing the TOK game we will play by the TOK rules. This is a meta-cognitive positive choice. Remember that your horizons are much bigger than any academic program even a really good one like the IB.

* Required

Email address *

Your email
WHAT WILL BECOME OF US
According to the IBO, Knowledge Questions are contestable meta-questions about knowledge itself. Good Knowledge Questions are crafted with intention to be open, general and contentious. They are succinct, grammatical and use precise TOK concepts and vocabulary. To what extent do understand what a TOK KQ is after reading the definition but before answering this quiz? *

1 2 3 4 5

Not at all. Really well.

Knowledge Questions are big questions but they are not too big. Which of the following is a good TOK Knowledge Question rather than a timeless philosophical question that might forever be beyond human understanding *

- What is the nature of time?
- Is there God?
- In the Natural Sciences to what extent can new discoveries overturn well established theories?
- Do souls reincarnate?
Which the following is an open and contestable question as opposed to a closed question? *

- Where is the Sahal desert?
- How should we approach the evaluation of historical documents produced by a totalitarian regime?
- What is the structure of a phospholipid membrane?
- 67 squared is less than 5000
What is wrong with this failed Knowledge Question? "Does the Fillip's Curve about Economiks predict stagflation"?

- It has a spelling mistake
- It is a closed question
- It is ungrammatical
- It is about the real life content of an academic subject rather than zooming out to the larger picture of knowledge itself
- It doesn't even have a question mark
- All of the above

Which of the following Knowledge Questions works better than the others because it does not contain emotional or biased language?

- Give the reasons why we should ignore art made by artists who have disgusting private lives?
- Why can't simple people enjoy art as much as trained professional art critics?
- When interpreting an art object to what extent is it important to know the intention of its creator?
- Why is most contemporary art so insulting and stupid that it seems they are having a laugh at our expense?
Does saying "To what extent..." at the beginning of a draft Knowledge Question guarantee it will be a good Knowledge Question according to the IB? *

- Always
- Never
- It helps a lot to make the question open and contentious; but that is only one of the criteria for a good knowledge question

Which of following Knowledge questions includes the other? *

- Can the suffering of developing countries be justified by the socio-economic well-being of developed societies benefitting from it?
- To what extent should we adopt a utilitarian approach when making ethical judgments in the human sciences?
Which of the following questions is a worthy, open-ended real world question that academics and experts can seriously debate, but is not a "good Knowledge Question" according to the IB, because it is not about Knowledge itself? *

- What metaphors in William Blake's poem: Auguries of Innocence evoke the positive value of freedom?
- To what extent was the siege of Stalingrad the turning point of the Second World War?
- How convincing is the Rumination Hypotheses for understanding clinical depression?
- How do migrating birds navigate very long distances?
- All of the above
Why is “To what extent should we adopt a utilitarian approach when making ethical judgments in the human sciences?” a really good knowledge question? *

- It has no spelling mistakes, has a question mark and is grammatical
- It is an open question inviting multiple perspective and nuanced debate
- It includes TOK vocabulary
- It can apply to multiple real life situations
- It is a meta-question about knowledge itself
- All of the above

A famous Berkeley professor is fired after students complained that he continually expressed racist opinions in his lectures. Extract a good TOK Knowledge Question from this real life situation and write it here. *

Your answer
According to the IBO, Knowledge Questions are contestable questions about knowledge itself. Good Knowledge Questions are crafted with intention to be open, general and contentious. They are succinct, grammatical and use precise TOK concepts and vocabulary. To what extent do you now understand this definition after answering this quiz and re-reading the definition. (Be honest you are not being graded.) *

Not at all  ○  ○  ○  ○  ○  Really well

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