

KIST DP Course Descriptions 2011-2012

Group: Hexagon Core **Level:** HL/SL

Subject: Theory of Knowledge

Grade: 12

Unit Number: 2

Unit Title: Mathematical and Artistic Knowledge: How different are they?

Approximate Duration: 1 month

Key Concepts:

The nature of Mathematics; the methodology of Mathematics; Mathematics and the World; Mathematics and the Knower.

LP Link: Reflective

TOK Link(s):

This is a unit in the taught Theory of Knowledge Curriculum

Description of the Unit:

This unit focuses upon the two of the Areas of Knowledge; Mathematics and Arts. These two Areas of Knowledge are often seen as being placed at either end of a knowledge spectrum however, their similarities as well as their differences will be explored. Students will consider what defines Art and how cultural influence has a significant impact on the subject. In Mathematics, students will explore the history of this subject and familiarize themselves with the Mathematical method. Art and a comparison between Mathematics and Music will be the focus of the two TOK presentations in this unit. Students will continue to keep a TOK journal with their reflections on Mathematics and Art whilst their explorations will go towards their G12 TOK Essay.

Key Knowledge/Skills Addressed:

Some of the Key Knowledge Issues that will be addressed in the Unit will be:

What defines good Art?

Can artistic knowledge be universal?

Is Mathematics always certain?

Are Mathematics and the Arts discovered or invented?

Main Summative Assessment of the Unit: DP Written Assignment

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Group: Hexagon Core **Level:** HL/SL

Subject: Theory of Knowledge

Grade: 12

Unit Number: 1

Unit Title: The Nature of Scientific Knowledge

Approximate Duration: 1 month

Key Concepts:

The nature of Scientific Knowledge; the methodology of Scientific Knowledge; values and the Natural Sciences; Natural Sciences and technology

LP Link: Reflective

TOK Link(s):

This is a unit in the taught Theory of Knowledge Curriculum

Description of the Unit:

This unit automatically links to Grade 11 and focuses upon the Area of Knowledge; Natural Sciences. The Sciences are often seen as the dominant model of knowledge due to the certainty that they appear to bring. From time to time there have been attempts in other Areas of Knowledge to mirror methodology in the Natural Sciences. In Science however, just like other Areas of Knowledge, we need to be cautious about some of the more extreme knowledge claims that may be made. It is also in Natural Sciences that the first Grade 12 TOK presentation is done. During this unit, students explore some of the major knowledge issues surrounding the Natural Sciences as an Area of Knowledge. Students will continue to keep a TOK journal with their reflections on the Natural Sciences whilst their explorations will go towards their G12 TOK Essay and TOK Presentation.

Key Knowledge/Skills Addressed:

Some of the Key Knowledge Issues that will be addressed in the Unit will be:

What is Science?

What is the Scientific Method?

Are there any problems with the Scientific Method?

How does Scientific Knowledge develop?

Can there be bad Science?

How similar are the Human and Natural Sciences?

Main Summative Assessment of the Unit: DP Written Assignment

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Group: Hexagon Core **Level:** HL/SL

Subject: Theory of Knowledge

Grade: 12

Unit Number: 3

Unit Title: Human Behavior in the Past and the Present

Approximate Duration: 1 month

Key Concepts:

The nature Human Behavior; the methodology of the Human Sciences and History; values and Human Behavior;

LP Link: Reflective

TOK Link(s):

This is a unit in the taught Theory of Knowledge Curriculum

Description of the Unit:

This unit focuses upon the two of the Areas of Knowledge; Human Sciences and History. These two Areas of Knowledge are linked by their common purpose to explain human behavior, the former in the present the latter in the past. In particular, students explore the methodologies used to gain knowledge in both disciplines. Students explore some of the limitations of gaining knowledge in the Human Sciences and specifically explore the reliability of statistical information. They also investigate exactly what History is and how it is constructed before having the opportunity to consider where History is coming from and where it might be going. Students will continue to keep a TOK journal with their reflections on the Human Sciences and History whilst their explorations will go towards their G12 TOK Essay and TOK Presentations.

Key Knowledge/Skills Addressed:

Some of the Key Knowledge Issues that will be addressed in the Unit will be:

What are the Human Sciences?

What are some of the Knowledge Issues involved in the Human Sciences?

Can Statistics Lie?

Why study History?

How can the past be known?

Is there a pattern to the past?

Main Summative Assessment of the Unit: DP Written Assignment