

Excerpt from TOK Presentation Moderation Examiner Report, May 2015

M. Sinclair

Knowledge Questions: Here are some of the better ones with associated RLS.

- At what point do the means of knowledge acquisition become unethical?
(Snowden's disclosures show NSA conducting electronic surveillance on citizens and foreign nationals)
- At what point do we decide ethically to limit the application of knowledge?
(Student with a heart defect wonders why her mother decided not to abort)
- At what point does assumed knowledge justify action?
(The shooting of Michael Brown in Missouri)
- Is sharing knowledge inherently beneficial?
(Petroleum industry angered when Tesla publishes its electric car technology)
- How do we know where to assign responsibility for consequences?
(12 year old murders in response to the violence in a horror movie)
- To what extent do memory and sense perception impact one another to shape knowledge?
(Seeing family photos adds to memories of a vacation that you don't recall very well)
- To what extent do emotion and reason interact to shape our behavior?
(Nurse assists her terminally ill father to die using morphine)
- In what way do Ways of Knowing reinforce the permanence of ethnic stereotyping across the generations?
(Rude and abusive comments and near fights at an ethnic parade)
- In what way does shared knowledge contribute to individual understanding?
(Tracking the college acceptances of classmates causes self-doubt about ones own college plans)
- What role does the accumulation of evidence play in the shaping of behavior?
(Heroin addicts share personal stories of their struggles)
- What role does naming play in influencing our perception?
(JayZ on Oprah says using the N word will help change its connotation.)
- How does language shape cultural identity?
(The existence of words in some languages that don't exist in other languages)
- Is creativity learned or innate?
(Mozart was a child prodigy)
- How important is experience in the acquisition of knowledge?
(Savant Syndrome: Alonzo Clemens' remarkable sculpting skills)
- To what extent does context affect the way people view art?
(Norwegian performance artist Alexander Wengshoel eats his own hip for exhibition)

- To what extent can quality in art be pre-determined?
(Stravinsky's Rite of Spring musical revolution and ensuing riots)
- On what basis can we justify an authority's influence over personal choice?
(Surge in numbers of Libyan migrants trying to reach Italy)
- Who decides about limitations to the access to information?
(OpenNet is a joint project to monitor and report on Internet filtering and surveillance practices across nations)
- On what basis can we distinguish between fantasy and reality?
(Alice in Wonderland quote: Alice says, "There's no use trying...one can't believe impossible things.")
- How does the concept of death shape the way we experience life?
(University of Essex study, published in Psychological Science, "View of Mortality Affects How We Live our Lives")
- Are the human sciences adequate to fully understand an individual?
(Rwandan Genocidal violence by individuals who had lived previously in peaceful coexistence)