

General Comments on the Spring PE

General

- You are tired and you are seniors. Can't high school just be over already? Got it. We empathize. But it's not over till it's over. Every paper you really work at makes you a better writer. Don't give up.
- Be direct. Say what you mean. Simplicity is your friend. We already think you are smart. Big words and pointlessly complex constructions don't make you smarter or a better writer.
- Definitions should be part of your argument - not appendices.
- Be creative and original. Avoid the stock ToK examples. You know what I am talking about.
- Thank you for avoiding the flat Earthers :)

1.

- This PT begs for interpretation. What does it mean?
- Think about issues of conformity and originality, but also about the normative dimensions of the topic.

2.

- This topic requires not only very clear definitions of what it means to describe and explain, but that these definitions be used as part of your argument.
- this topic really requires you to get quite granular with your examples. Avoid generality. Be clear what, using the same example, explanation and description would look like.

4.

- More than any other topic, this requires a clear and well used definition of both explanation and justification. How are the concepts different?
- Be careful about the examples you cite as analogies. Is every instance of learning from the past an example of analogous thinking?

5.

- Again, definitions are key, especially given that the meaning of “theory” is going to be very different in different AoKs. This difference MUST be acknowledged.
- I think RKS and IKS are problematic for this topic. If you choose to use either of these, how you define “theory” in the context of each will be key to the success of your essay.
- Saying that the concept of “theory” can be defined in the same way in both the natural sciences and RKS is asking for disaster. If you are comparing these two WoKs, you will need to very different definitions.

6.

- Wholly dependent means wholly dependent.
- Think about the distinction between personal and shared knowledge when writing on this topic.
- If you write on this topic, it is not enough simply to narrate the progression of knowledge, you must explain why advances are dependent on what came before.