

TOK WOK CHEAT SHEET: ___Intuition___

TOK Definition/Explanation:

Among many definitions, intuition can be defined as knowing something instinctively without the use of conscious reasoning.

Key Related Vocabulary:

Automatic system describes a mode of thinking that prioritize intuitive responses over more reflective ones

Reflective system describes a mode of thinking that offers more measured and detailed response as opposed to the intuitive ones.

Heuristics describes the extensive network of mental shortcuts. For example, when wanting to buy a new mobile, one may select a popular model because it is assumed to be of quality.

Executive Control describes the overarching power that decides to either employ an intuitive or reflective judgment.

Key Concepts Explained:

Absolute Objectivity describes a state where only empirical and rational evidence influences outcome or judgment. Although this supposed state is increasingly difficult to define, there are still some exponents of this thinking including scientist Richard Dawkins (1942 -)

Productive Prejudices was coined by Hans –Georg Gadamer.(1900 – 2002) Prejudices are prejudgments that are used to describe knowledge and experiences that may not be entirely empirically and rationally but have become part of ourselves. They are used to test the validity of new experiences. An example is our experience of university. Some prejudgments will prove to be true, whilst others turn out to be false.

Expert Intuitions describes the intuitive responses of experts who have been repeatedly trained to react in certain ways. An expert is the Indian batsman Sachin Tendulkar (1973 -) who describes the way he plays as instinctive.

Related Real Life Situations:

Subliminal Perception: Jackie Larsen, on meeting supposed stranded motorist Christopher Bono in April 2001, intuitively sensed something was wrong and instead called the police. It transpired that Bono was on run after murdering his mother.

TOK WOK Cheat Sheet

Convention versus Intuition: Arnold Schoenberg (1874 – 1951) controversial composer went against compositional conventions by creating atonal music that went to be vindicated as an artistic breakthrough by experts.

Related Knowledge Questions:

When can we trust our intuition?

How can we determine the value of intuition?

Why is the knowledge produced by intuition often viewed as more problematic than that of other ways of knowing?

To what extent is foundational knowledge essentially intuitive?

In what sense, if at all, can intuitions be tested?

Brief overview of how this WOK is used in Areas of Knowledge:

HOW/WHEN DOES IT HELP CREATE KNOWLEDGE?	WHY/WHEN SHOULD WE BE WARY OF USING IT TO CREATE KNOWLEDGE?
Seeking a Knowledge Breakthrough	Problematic for Shared Knowledge
Interpersonal Relationships	Not Empirically Verifiable
Artistic Interpretation	Medical Disorders
Sporting Expertise	Intoxication
Counseling	Evidence in a Court of Law