**PT 3 May 2024 Scaffolded TOK Essay Planner**

1. **Name & TOK class period**: Vincent Shao, Period 5

2. **TOK Essay PT** (number AND actual EXACT wording-type it out, not copy/paste):

**PT 3:** Nothing is more exciting than fresh ideas, so why are areas of knowledge often so slow to adopt them? Discuss with reference to the human sciences and one other area of knowledge.

3. List possible **sub-knowledge questions, but remember: “The title, all of the title, and nothing but the title”**:

What constitutes a “fresh idea”? When is an adoption considered slow? What does it mean to adopt?

4. What does the title ask you **to discuss** (dig deep, not just surface) **AND** how **should you approach this discussion** (mean this in more than just an IB Command Term way)?

The title asks me to discuss the concept of fresh ideas and how they are slowly adopted in the human sciences and one other area of knowledge. This requires defining what fresh ideas are and what it means to adopt a new idea. Is it simply agreeing with the idea? Or is it acting upon the idea? Is an idea considered fresh only if nobody has ever thought of it before? Or is it also fresh if was an extremely minority view? The title also asks me to explain *why* adoption of new ideas is slow, which would require me to analyze the adoption process and identify the roadblocks that are present when adopting a fresh idea.

To approach this, I should first define the key terms to eliminate any ambiguity, and continue to use these definitions throughout the paper. Even defining the key terms can be met with claims and counterclaims, so I would need to address those during the definitions and make valid claims to support the definitions I choose to use. After definitions, the discussion of my central claim would be first presenting my argument and supporting arguments, then addressing possible counterclaims and refuting them thereafter.

5. Write your **overall, potential central position/claim** as a single statement:

Areas of knowledge are slow to adopt fresh ideas because of an inherent attachment towards long-standing ideas and aversion to changing foundations that have already been established.

6. **Counterclaim #1** – what can be said against your central argument (answer to #5) as a single statement?

Areas of knowledge are slow to adopt new ideas not because of an aversion to change, but because the change inherently requires a lot of things to be redone, which takes time.

7. **Counterclaim #2** – what can be said against the prescribed title in general – against what is asserted in the prescribed title as a single statement? (This is more challenging, do the best you can, give it a go ~ the only way to get this one wrong is not to try to come up with yet another perspective.)

In many cases, areas of knowledge are quick to adopt new ideas once the previous idea has failed and the new one has been proven to be better.

8. What might be some **pitfalls or oversimplifications** you will need to try to avoid in your essay?

One pitfall could be focusing too much on defining what is an “exciting” idea, since it isn’t the focus of the PT. It is also easy to oversimplify the question and focus only on one perspective for why areas of knowledge are slow to adopt, instead of considering all possibilities.

9. What are the ***two* AOKs** you are thinking you will discuss? Why would these work the best with the Prescribed Title you have chosen? *If assigned one or two AOKs with the PT, please do not just say IB has chosen them for you ~ include multiple reasons why you think IB chose the AOK(s) for the PT.*

Human sciences – I think IB chose this AOK because the human sciences are constantly developing with new ideas and common beliefs, for example economic theory has evolved constantly throughout history. This provides many situations where we can analyze why the new ideas were not accepted immediately or even relatively quickly. The situations where these changes occurred are different each time, providing us with many different scenarios to analyze in an attempt to determine specifically *why* areas of knowledge are slow to adopt new ideas.

Natural sciences – The natural sciences has had multiple changes and fundamental alterations in commonly accepted beliefs. After reading The Structure of Scientific Revolutions by Thomas Kuhn, these have become more apparent to me, and I think the area of knowledge contains many valuable real life situations to demonstrate the PT.

10. List & explain how your **real-life situations** contribute to your argument & counterclaims-be **specific** with actual situations with citations if needed (NOT hypotheticals or generalizations), including some **well-known, verifiable *AND*** at least one **personal** (must complete a through d for credit, but can ~ *and probably should* ~ add more):

a. I learned in my IB History class that during the Great Depression, the US Federal Reserve followed common economic theory at the time and reduced the amount of money in circulation, which actually worsened the Depression. It took some time for economic theory to change and realize the error, which eventually developed into today’s policy. Today, the Federal Reserve will pour money into circulation when a depression or recession appears imminent.

b. I remember reading in biology class that Darwin’s theory of evolution was initially denied and met with scorn. This was somewhat due to religious beliefs and the pride of humans believing they were sculpted with a purpose, not the result of random mutations at the whims of nature

c. I remember a time when I was slow to adopt new ideas and information. I learned to hold chopsticks at a young age, and I had been holding them in the same way for years. One day, my parents told me the way I was holding them was wrong and I should change it. I refused to because I was attached to my habits and didn’t want to change, despite them being incorrect and inferior. It took me years to slowly adjust to holding chopsticks the proper way.

d. In today’s world, people in power and politics are often resilient to facts about climate change. Extremists claim that climate change doesn’t exist, while more moderate opposers simply say its effects are negligible. There are many theories for their reasonings for opposition, including personal motive and laziness.

Double check you have completed all parts/EVERYTHING for each prompt above & submit to where is says in the Canvas assignment BEFORE 10pm on Friday, October 13th. ***I am required to verify this is YOUR work, no sharing with others or using AI or the interwebs, so DO NOT EMAIL IT TO ME as I need the turnitin system to check it.***