

Essay 2—Level 4: Very good (7)

There is a consistent focus on knowledge questions concerned with the relationship between doubt and knowledge as the prescribed title asks.

The essay is well organized with paragraphs devoted to claims and counterclaims with respect to whether doubt has a role in knowledge acquisition, and, if so, whether that role is positive or negative.

The arguments are clear, supported by good examples, and some effective links to the history and arts. Regarding personal examples (doubt about the origin of life, the origin of the Swedish wooden plate), some were more effective than others. Also the use of psychology to counter claim that doubt is the origin of knowledge was pertinent and coherent.

It is a thoughtful and intelligent piece of work, clearly showing the candidate's engagement with the knowledge questions.

This essay displays the characteristic typical of level 4, however, since some of the examples, in spite of being pertinent and coherent, were not original and thoroughly evaluated, the mark awarded was 7.