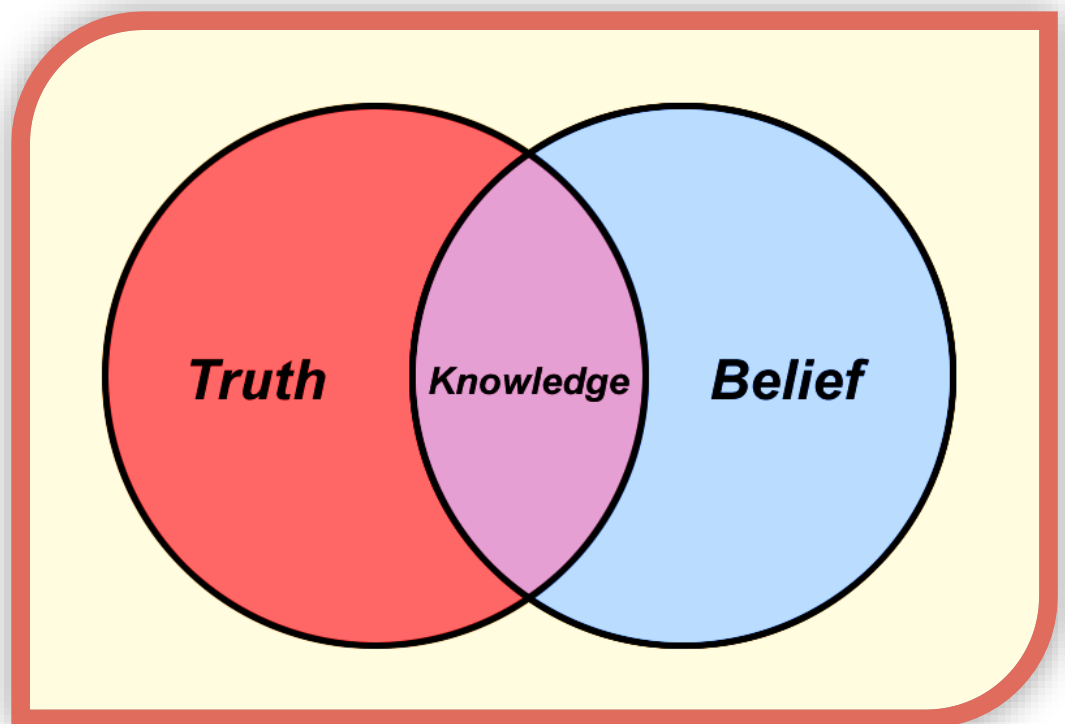


Theme Five: Seeing is Believing!



Advanced Thematic Discussion

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Religion and Belief

- How would a strong belief in afterlife affect people's lives?
- What is your conception of heaven and hell? What would the best pleasures and worst tortures in heaven and hell be respectively?
- Why do many people become so religious when they get older?
- What is the point of a religious trip, an example of which is present in many religions (e.g. Muslims' Haj, Christian pilgrimages to the Holy Land in Palestine or Santiago de Compostela in Spain)?



Superstitions

- What do you think of the following beliefs held by many around the world?
 - When you praise someone, you should knock on the wood.
 - You shouldn't talk about dead people.
 - Love follows marriage.
 - Broken mirror brings seven years of bad luck.
- Many solid beliefs of the past have been abolished as science and our understanding of the world have progressed. Which currently-held beliefs do you think would be susceptible to rejection in the future? Why?
- The British philosopher Stephen Law has described some belief systems (including belief in homeopathy, psychic powers and alien abduction) as "claptrap" and said that they "*draw people in and hold them captive so they become willing slaves ... if you get sucked in, it can be extremely difficult to think your way clear again*". What is your idea?



Belief Idioms

- What do you think of the following idioms? Do you think they make sense?
 - Believe nothing of what you hear, and only half of what you see.
 - Seeing is believing.
 - It has to be seen to be believed.
 - If you believe that, you'll believe anything.
 - liar is not believed when he tells the truth.

