

Analysis of Knowledge
Part I: the ‘justified true belief account of knowledge’

I. Reading

(A) Primary Readings

Read the following two papers:

- Ayer, A. J., *The problem of Knowledge*, Penguin (1990), **ch. 1** (pp. 7-35).
- Gettier, E., ‘Is justified true belief knowledge?’, *Analysis* 23 (1963), pp. 121-123.

Additional Optional readings:

- Any of the papers in part I of Bernecker, S., and Dretske, F. (eds.). *Knowledge: Readings in Contemporary Epistemology* OUP (2000).
- Williamson, T., *Knowledge and Its Limits*, OUP (2000), Introduction and chapter 1 (especially pages 1-5, and pages 27-33).

(B) Background readings

- Steup, M., ‘[The Analysis of Knowledge](#)’, *The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*.

II. Writing

Write an essay discussing the ‘Justified true belief’ account of knowledge and its three components. Is each of the components necessary in order to have knowledge? Is the presence of all three components sufficient for knowledge? How plausible is the account?