

What and why

Our aim is to help you in your approach and understanding of academic material in any subject with and gain more confidence.

All of the words used will appear on GCSE exam papers.

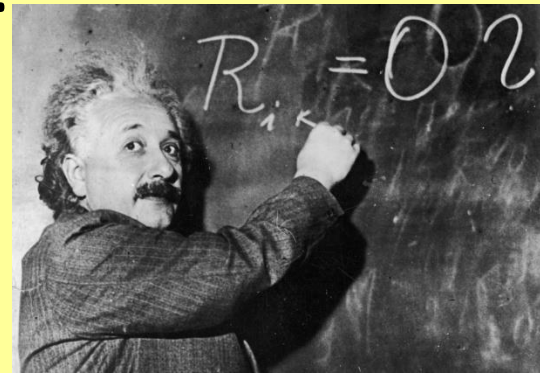
This week's word is...

Theory

[**thee-uh-ree, theer-ee**]

Theory – not an idea?

A theory is not always the same as an idea. In scientific terms, it is a well-substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world, based on a body of facts that have been repeatedly confirmed through observation and experiment. Such fact-supported **theories** are not "guesses" but reliable accounts of the real world.



Theory

- *noun, plural the·o·ries.*
- a coherent group of tested general propositions, commonly regarded as correct, that can be used as principles of explanation and prediction for a class of phenomena: *Einstein's theory of relativity.*
- a proposed explanation whose status is still conjectural and subject to experimentation, in contrast to well-established propositions that are regarded as reporting matters of actual fact.
- *Mathematics.* a body of principles, theorems, or the like, belonging to one subject: *number theory.*
- a particular conception or view of something to be done or of the method of doing it; a system of rules or principles: *conflicting theories of how children best learn to read.*
- contemplation or speculation: *the theory that there is life on other planets.*

Theory

Synonyms

- [approach](#)
- [argument](#)
- [concept](#)
- [idea](#)
- [ideology](#)
- [method](#)
- [philosophy](#)
- [plan](#)
- [premise](#)
- [proposal](#)
- [rationale](#)
- [speculation](#)
- [suspicion](#)

Origin of the word

- First evidence of use is between 1590 – 1600
- Late Latin and early Greek from the word ***theoria*** meaning a viewing or contemplating.

Theory

Use the word 'Theory' to earn points!

Use the word of the week in your writing or in your discussions in class to earn points!

