Comprehension Questions for *Meaning and Naming*, selection from Abel’s Man is the Measure

TOK 12

**Instructions:**

Get out your reading and review the below questions with someone sitting next to you. Attempt to come to a consensus on you answers to the questions. When drawing from the text, please make note of the page number where you found the information.

1. What is the role of sense and reference in the meaning of a word? What is an example where they can be in contradiction/present a problem of knowledge?
2. Does something need to exist in order for us to name it? If not, is its existence then guaranteed because it has a name? Why/why not?
3. How do languages originate? What is their foundation and how do they develop?
4. What happens when we compare languages? Does that fact that different languages have different systems that do not always translate mean that concepts or objects exist in one language and not another?
5. What distinguishes human language from animal language? Can we say that animals actually have their own language? Why/why not?
6. Is human language innate or learned? Which two linguistics have squared off in this debate? Summarize their arguments.