



The Big Idea behind the Glossary

Every term in Unit 3 answers one question:

"What role does this play in transforming an Initial Knowledge Claim (IKC) into a Robust Knowledge Claim (RKC)?"

Term	Simple Meaning	Role in the Journey	Guiding Question
Initial Knowledge Claim (IKC)	Your best current explanation based on available evidence.	The starting point for validation.	What explanation am I testing?
Knowledge Validation	Testing whether a knowledge claim is trustworthy.	Determines whether the claim deserves confidence.	How do I know this claim is reliable?
Stress Testing	Deliberately challenging a knowledge claim.	Reveals strengths and weaknesses before accepting it.	Can my explanation survive difficult questions?
Critical Evaluation	Carefully judging the strengths and weaknesses of a claim.	Improves the quality of knowledge.	How strong is this explanation?
Reliability	Whether evidence or findings remain consistent.	Increases confidence in the claim.	Would similar investigations produce similar results?



Term	Simple Meaning	Role in the Journey	Guiding Question
Credibility	How trustworthy a source or piece of evidence is.	Determines whether evidence deserves confidence.	Can this source be trusted?
Validity	Whether evidence genuinely supports the claim.	Ensures conclusions are appropriate.	Does this evidence really support my explanation?
Corroboration	Independent evidence reaching similar conclusions.	Strengthens confidence in a claim.	Do multiple sources support this idea?
Bias	An influence that unfairly shapes judgement.	Identifies hidden distortions in reasoning.	What could be influencing my judgement unfairly?
Confirmation Bias	Looking only for evidence that supports existing beliefs.	Prevents balanced evaluation.	Am I only seeing what I want to see?
Counterevidence	Evidence that challenges a claim.	Tests the robustness of knowledge.	What evidence disagrees with my explanation?
Counterargument	A reasoned argument against a claim.	Encourages deeper evaluation.	How would someone challenge this claim?
Alternative Perspective	Another way of interpreting the same issue.	Broadens understanding.	Who might see this differently?
Falsification	Testing whether a claim can be proven wrong.	Makes knowledge more robust.	What evidence could disprove this claim?
Logical Coherence	The ideas fit together without contradiction.	Ensures reasoning is sound.	Does my conclusion logically follow from my evidence?



Term	Simple Meaning	Role in the Journey	Guiding Question
Logical Fallacy	An error in reasoning.	Prevents weak arguments.	Is my reasoning flawed?
Assumption Check	Re-examining ideas accepted without evidence.	Reduces hidden influences.	What assumptions still remain?
Evidence Weight	Giving greater importance to stronger evidence.	Helps compare competing explanations.	Which evidence deserves the most confidence?
Plausibility	How reasonable an explanation is based on evidence.	Supports informed judgement.	Which explanation makes the most sense?
Confidence	The degree to which evidence supports a claim.	Reflects the strength of current knowledge.	How confident should I be?
Certainty	Complete conviction that something cannot reasonably be questioned.	Reminds learners that certainty is rare.	Can I ever be completely certain?
Limitation	A boundary or weakness in a claim or evidence.	Prevents overgeneralisation.	What are the limits of this explanation?
Uncertainty	What is still unknown or unresolved.	Encourages continued inquiry.	What remains uncertain?
Ethical Reflection	Considering the moral implications of knowledge.	Ensures responsible use of knowledge.	What ethical responsibilities arise from this claim?
Revision	Improving a claim after evaluation.	Strengthens understanding.	What should I change?



Term	Simple Meaning	Role in the Journey	Guiding Question
Refinement	Making an explanation clearer, stronger, and more accurate.	Produces higher-quality knowledge.	How can this explanation become stronger?
Robust Knowledge Claim (RKC)	A knowledge claim that has survived critical evaluation and validation.	The outcome of the validation journey.	What explanation can I confidently defend?
Epistemic Humility	Recognising that even strong knowledge can be improved.	Keeps learners open to new evidence.	Could future evidence change my thinking?
Knowledge Robustness	The ability of a claim to withstand challenge and scrutiny.	Measures the quality of validated knowledge.	How resilient is my explanation under critical examination?