Supported preparation: HL competing theoretical explanations

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Social and Cultural Anthropology · HL

Scope and prerequisites

IB social and cultural anthropology first assessment 2019. Select one inquiry area from each of three groups at SL; HL adds a fourth and theory extension. Teacher selects real ethnographies; classroom vignettes below are original teaching cases, not ethnographic publications.

Mapped preparation outcomes: ib_anthropology_hl.4.1, ib_anthropology_hl.4.2. Read the matching native lesson first. Actual approved choices, evidence and final learner work remain separate.

Source vocabulary

power ; **theory** .

Explanation and worked method

A symbolic lens asks how meanings organize action; a power lens asks who controls resources and obligations. Explain the mechanism before applying its name.

Original source / task evidence

Task: a giver chooses recipients while recipients describe the exchange as friendship. Are the lenses mutually exclusive?

Separate what is stated from the interpretation.
HL competing theoretical explanations

Task: a giver chooses recipients while recipients describe the exchange as friendship. Are the lenses mutually exclusive?

Friendship meanings may organize participation while control of allocation creates unequal influence. Test whether recipients can refuse and whether obligations vary. Neither lens is established by one quotation; compare participant accounts with observed consequences. The school's actual ethnographies and selected theories remain required.

Independent transfer

Recipients successfully change the allocation rule. How does this affect a power-focused account?

Attempt independently before reading the model.

Checked original model

It weakens a claim that the giver controls all outcomes and suggests negotiated or distributed power. Examine whose proposals succeed and whether refusal has consequences. Formal opportunity to speak is weaker evidence than actual influence over decisions.

These are authored formative expectations, not official IB descriptors. Accept other justified arguments with evidence and material limits.

Source and task holds

This supplement teaches the method for this part of the course. The full assessment criteria and any texts your school chooses come from your teacher.