Anthropological practice

IB DP Social and Cultural Anthropology Anthropological practice full package

The day the villagers started talking

> Fieldwork depends on **rapport**, and you cannot plan when it will come.

- Bali, 1958: for days the villagers ignored Clifford Geertz and his wife.
- At an illegal cockfight the police came; the Geertzes ran and hid like everyone else.
- Rapport: trust between researcher and people - it cannot be planned.

Fieldwork at SL and HL

SL - limited fieldwork, 20%	**HL - fieldwork, 25%**
1. an observation report	1. a proposal: setting, question, concept, methods, ethics
2. an extension of the first fieldwork	2. a critical reflection on the first fieldwork
3. a second data collection, with analysis	3. a research report and final reflection
4. a critical reflection on anthropology	(three parts at HL)

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Too wide, or focused?

Too wide	**Focused (concept)**
What is Chinese culture?	How do students share the narrow door between lessons? (power, social relations)
Why do people dance?	How do the dancers in one park decide who stands at the front? (power, identity)

Four methods

Method	How to use it
field notes	what you see (who, what, where, when), apart from what you think it means
observation	the same place and time on several days, to see patterns
interviews	short open questions - "Can you tell me about ...?" - for the emic view
maps and counts	a plan of the space with flows; tallies of a behaviour

Worked fieldwork: the narrow door

1. **Methods** Flow map at the same minute on five days; door-holding count; three interviews.
2. **Finding** Older students pass first; younger ones wait unasked; a queue forms by itself.
3. **Concepts** Power - age gives priority. Social relations - an unwritten rule.

Three ethical rules

Informed consent - say what you study, ask before interviews; people can stop any time

Anonymity - no real names or photographs of faces; record flows and numbers

Do no harm - no private places; report nothing that could get someone into trouble

Positionality: the insider

What being an insider gives

Easy access to the setting.

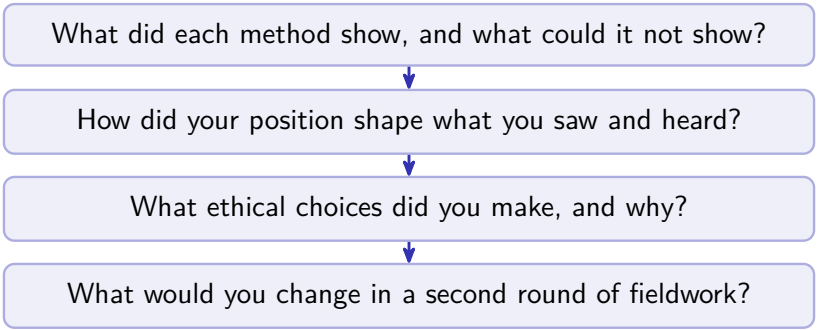
You already understand the rules.

What it can hide

Things that seem normal to you go unnoticed.

Other students may say what they think you want to hear.

What the critical reflection asks



Check yourself

Your turn

Without notes,

A. List the parts of the task at your level, with the weighting.
B. Turn a wide question about a park into a focused one.
C. Choose two methods for it, and one thing each cannot show.
D. State the three ethical rules and your position.