Supported preparation: Fieldwork rehearsal and reflection

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

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_sl.3.1, ib_anthropology_sl.3.2. Read the matching native lesson first. Actual approved choices, evidence and final learner work remain separate.

Source vocabulary

fieldwork ; **informed consent** .

Explanation and worked method

Before observation, state a focused question, a recording unit, a sampling period and approved consent/privacy arrangements. Separate description from interpretation. Actual fieldwork and school approval cannot be supplied by a model answer.

Original source / task evidence

Original notes: “At 12:10, four members sat near the door. The observer knew three of them.” Interpret cautiously and improve a plan about seating and belonging.

Separate what is stated from the interpretation.
Fieldwork rehearsal and reflection

Original notes: “At 12:10, four members sat near the door. The observer knew three of them.” Interpret cautiously and improve a plan about seating and belonging.

The description records a location and count. Friendship, status and exclusion are hypotheses. Repeat observations at comparable times and ask voluntary, non-leading questions where approved. Record how the observer’s friendships influence access and interpretation. Do not label identifiable people or assume consent from silence.

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Independent transfer

The second seating observation breaks the initial pattern. How should the analysis respond?

Attempt independently before reading the model.

Checked original model

Retain the exception and compare timing, activity and participants. Revise a general friendship claim to a bounded observed pattern unless further evidence supports it. A discrepant observation can test the interpretation; deleting it would conceal evidence.

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.

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