1.2 Paper 1 skills: the unseen ethnographic text

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 30 marks**

KEY WORDS unseen text • exchange • reciprocity • gift • belonging

Objective

Build the **Paper 1** skills: read an **unseen ethnographic text**, describe what it shows, analyse it with **key concepts**, and compare it with an ethnography you have studied.

You must be able to:

- describe the people, place and practice in an unseen text
- analyse the text with one or two key concepts
- compare the text with an ethnography you have studied
- use precise evidence from the text
- plan a comparative answer

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

Unseen text (written for practice)

In a market town in the highlands, women sell vegetables from blankets on the ground. Each seller has regular customers, *caseras*, who always buy from her. She adds an extra potato or a handful of herbs, the *yapa*, to their bags. Buyers who are not *caseras* pay the same price but receive no *yapa*. Several sellers said that a supermarket opened last year "for people who do not know anyone". Younger buyers increasingly shop there.

How to answer

1. **Describe**: who, where, what practice; quote short phrases.
2. **Analyse**: apply a concept (e.g. *exchange*, *belonging*, *change*). Say what the practice *does* for people.
3. **Compare**: with an ethnography you know: author, group, place, and one similarity and one difference.

Worked analysis. The *yapa* turns a sale into a **relationship**: a small gift creates

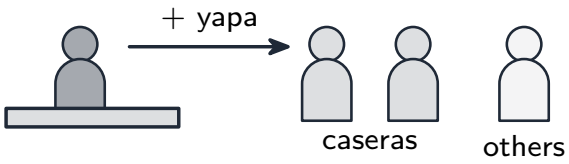
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obligation and loyalty, so the customer returns. This links to Marcel Mauss' argument in *The Gift* (1925) that gifts create obligations to receive and to repay. The supermarket shows **change**: impersonal exchange ("for people who do not know anyone") is replacing personal ties.

2 Practice

2.1 Describe the practice of the ***yapa*** in the text. [2]

2.2 Explain how the *yapa* creates **belonging** between sellers and *caseras*. [3]



2.3 Explain how the text shows **change** in exchange, and **one** possible cause. [4]

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2.4 Compare the exchange in the text with an ethnography you have studied (author, group, place). Give **one** similarity and **one** difference. [6]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 *(Paper 1 style.)* Using the concept of **exchange**, compare and contrast the ways in which relationships are created in the unseen text and in **one** ethnography you have studied. [15]



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