Engaging with anthropology

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Social and Cultural Anthropology · HL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
anthropology	**Anthropology** is the study of human societies and cultures.
big question	A **big question** asks something important about human life.
ethics /ˈeθɪks/	**Ethics** is about what is right and wrong.
key concept	Identity is one **key concept** in the course.
culture /ˈkʌltʃə/	**Culture** is the shared way of life of a group.
identity /aɪˈdentɪti/	Language and religion shape a person's **identity**.
materiality	**Materiality** looks at the objects people make and use.
power /ˈpaʊə/	**Power** decides who makes the rules in a group.
social relations	**Social relations** are the ties between people.
society	Every **society** has rules for marriage.
symbolism /ˈsɪmbəlɪzəm/	The red thread has **symbolism**: it stands for luck.
participant observation /pɑːˈtɪsɪpənt ɒbzəˈveɪʃn/	In **participant observation**, the researcher joins in daily life.
ethnography /eθˈnɒgrəfi/	An **ethnography** is a detailed study of one community.

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emic /ˈemɪk/	The researcher used **emic** terms that the villagers use.
etic	“Kinship system” is an **etic** term from outside the culture. “Kinship system”
ethnocentrism /ˈeθnəsentrɪzəm/	**Ethnocentrism** means judging other cultures by your own.
cultural relativism /ˈkʌltʃərəl ˈrelətɪvɪzəm/	**Cultural relativism** means understanding a culture on its own terms.
reflexivity /ˌriːflekˈsɪvɪti/	Good **reflexivity** means asking how your own background shapes what you see.
comparison /kəmˈpærɪsn/	A **comparison** of two cultures shows what is shared and what is different.
Fei Xiaotong	**Fei Xiaotong** studied village life in China.
guanxi	**Guanxi** is a network of personal relationships.

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