

4.1 HL competing theoretical explanations: supported rehearsal

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 6 marks

Objective

Supported preparation: Apply and evaluate anthropological theories; Compare interpretations using ethnographic evidence and researcher position. This is original rehearsal, not completion of the assessed task.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

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.

2 Practice

2.1 For the worked case, identify the evidence and a conclusion it can support. Explain one material limit. [3]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Recipients successfully change the allocation rule. How does this affect a power-focused account? Give a reasoned answer, evidence or method, and a relevant qualification. [3]

Solutions

2.1 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. Authored points for identifying relevant evidence, explaining a supported inference and a material limit.

3.1 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. Authored points for a relevant judgement, reason tied to the case and justified qualification or method. Accept a supported alternative.