

1.1 Meaning and researcher position: supported rehearsal

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Total: 6 marks

Objective

Supported preparation: Distinguish emic and etic interpretations; Use concepts to analyse ethnographic evidence and reflect on the observer. This is original rehearsal, not completion of the assessed task.

1 Key knowledge and worked examples

An **emic account** describes participants’ meanings; an **etic account** uses an analyst’s categories. Start by distinguishing an observed action, a participant’s statement and your interpretation. Then test which account the evidence supports. Reflexivity asks how your access, language and expectations shape that evidence.

Original source / task evidence

Original source A: a club member says, “I accept food because next week I will help prepare it.” Source B: a visiting observer records, “Food was distributed to members.” Compare the claims and explain a useful follow-up.

Separate what is stated from the interpretation.
Meaning and researcher position

Original source A: a club member says, “I accept food because next week I will help prepare it.” Source B: a visiting observer records, “Food was distributed to members.” Compare the claims and explain a useful follow-up.

A links acceptance to reciprocal obligation; B records distribution without establishing its meaning. They need not contradict each other. The statement is one member’s account, not a community-wide rule. Ask consenting members about differing experiences and compare what actually happens later. A visitor may miss relationships that a member takes for granted; a member may also present an idealized account. Neither position is automatically superior.

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 A club officer says everybody welcomes the meal obligation, but a newcomer reports feeling unable to refuse. Explain how to use both accounts. Give a reasoned answer, evidence or method, and a relevant qualification. [3]