

Exercise walk-through

3.1

Fieldwork rehearsal and reflection: supported rehearsal

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

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The method

Method — Worked example

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 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.

Method — Worked example

Before observation, state a focused question, a recording unit, a sampling period and approved...

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 classroom evidence panel for Fieldwork rehearsal and reflection

Exercises 2.1·3.1

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

3.1 The second seating observation breaks the initial pattern. How should the analysis respond? Give a reasoned answer, evidence or method, and a relevant qualification. [3]

Exercises 2.1·3.1

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

3.1 The second seating observation breaks the initial pattern. How should the analysis respond? Give a reasoned answer, evidence or method, and a relevant qualification. [3]

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