

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]

Solutions

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

3.1 The officer may describe a public ideal while the newcomer describes an experienced constraint. Compare roles, context and voluntary accounts rather than averaging them or treating one as the whole community. Observe how refusal is handled where approved. Explain how the researcher's access might favour officeholders. Authored points for a relevant judgement, reason tied to the case and justified qualification or method. Accept a supported alternative.