Engaging with ethnography

IB DP Social and Cultural Anthropology Engaging with ethnography full package

1. Ethnography at a glance

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IB Social and Cultural Anthropology: engaging with ethnography, examined in paper 2: nine areas of inquiry in three groups (one from each group), read as ethnographic material and compared through the key concepts.

Must-know: the three groups and their areas; material read by viewpoint, methods, concepts and ethics; section A's triangle (concept, area, real-world issue); comparison across areas through shared concepts.

2. The nine areas

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Group 1: classifying the world; health, illness and healing; the body. Group 2: belonging; communication, expression and technology; movement, time and space. Group 3: conflict; development; production, exchange and consumption. An area is a field of social life, not a place.

Worked: two areas carried through one school (the morning greeting ritual under belonging; the tuck-shop barter economy under production, exchange and consumption).

3. Reading the material

Reading the material

Four questions: the viewpoint of the anthropologist (who watched, from where); the research methods (how long, how close); the concepts it illuminates; its ethics (consent, anonymity, harm). The material stays grounded: a described scene, not a generalization about a whole society.

Worked: the greeting ritual read (a participant for one term; daily observation plus twelve interviews; belonging through ritual; names changed, the school's consent).

4. Comparing across areas

Comparing across areas

Section A links a key concept, an area of inquiry and a real-world issue (inequality, violence, poverty, mobility, environment); section B answers from the other areas. Comparison runs through shared concepts: the greeting and the barter both distribute recognition.

Worked: an inequality answer from the two areas: the greeting includes and excludes by form; the barter prices the same students differently; same concept, two mechanisms, both evidenced.

Check yourself

Check yourself

The three groups, each area named.

Viewpoint, methods, concepts, ethics on every read.

Section A's triangle connected.

Comparison through shared concepts, evidenced.