

Anthropological practice

IB DP Social and Cultural Anthropology Anthropological practice full package

1. Practice at a glance

Practice at a glance

IB Social and Cultural Anthropology internal assessment: the student's own limited fieldwork (observation report, extension, second data collection and analysis, critical reflection) - 20 percent at SL.

Must-know: the twice-run cycle (observe, collect, interpret, reflect); methods fitted to the question; consent, anonymity, do-no-harm with school permission first; positionality named; data interpreted toward a concept.

2. The fieldwork cycle

The fieldwork cycle

A question worth asking, a site that can answer it, methods chosen to fit (observation; counting and mapping; short interviews), fieldnotes kept, interpretation connecting data to a concept. The cycle runs twice: an initial observation report, then an extension with a second collection and analysis.

Worked: the corridor-flows project (the break-minute traffic question; a five-day same-minute flow map; a door-holding count; three interviews; movement read through power).

3. Ethics and positionality

Ethics and positionality

Informed consent (the studied know, and may decline), anonymity (identifying detail changed), do-no-harm (nothing that could damage a participant), school permission first: non-negotiable. Positionality is named in the report: the observer's role shapes the field.

Worked: the form class heard the project and could opt out; the map anonymises individuals into flows; the reflection names the observer as a daily corridor user whose own route was mapped.

4. Write-up and reflection

Write-up and reflection

The report presents question, method, data and interpretation with the methodological choices justified (five same-minute maps for comparability, not one morning's accident). The critical reflection judges the practice: what the methods could not see, what the second pass changed.

Worked: door-holding follows form and familiarity, so learned micro-rules order movement; the reflection: the count saw behaviour, not meaning, and the next study adds greetings to the map.

Check yourself

Check yourself

The cycle run twice, methods fitted and justified.

Consent, anonymity, do-no-harm, permission.

Positionality named in the report.

Data interpreted toward a concept; limits named.