

IB Social Cultural Anthropology Aims, Objectives, Syllabus Outline, and Assessments (From the IB Subject Guide, 2009)

The aims of all subjects in **group 3, individuals and societies** are to:

1. encourage the systematic and critical study of: human experience and behaviour; physical, economic and social environments; and the history and development of social and cultural institutions
2. develop in the student the capacity to identify, to analyse critically and to evaluate theories, concepts and arguments about the nature and activities of the individual and society
3. enable the student to collect, describe and analyse data used in studies of society, to test hypotheses, and to interpret complex data and source material
4. promote the appreciation of the way in which learning is relevant to both the culture in which the student lives, and the culture of other societies
5. develop an awareness in the student that human attitudes and opinions are widely diverse and that a study of society requires an appreciation of such diversity
6. enable the student to recognize that the content and methodologies of the subjects in group 3 are contestable and that their study requires the toleration of uncertainty.

The aims of the **social and cultural anthropology** course at SL and HL are to enable students to:

7. explore principles of social and cultural life and characteristics of societies and cultures
8. develop an awareness of historical, scientific and social contexts within which social and cultural anthropology has developed
9. develop in the student a capacity to recognize preconceptions and assumptions of their own social and cultural environments
10. develop an awareness of relationships between local, regional and global processes and issues

The objectives of Social Cultural Anthropology at Standard Level:

Having followed the social and cultural anthropology course at SL or at HL, students will be expected to demonstrate the following.

1. Knowledge and understanding

For example:

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key terms and ideas/concepts in anthropology
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of a range of appropriately identified ethnographic materials
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of specified themes in social and cultural organization
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of patterns and processes of change in society and Culture

2. Application and interpretation

For example:

- recognize key anthropological concepts in unfamiliar anthropological materials
- recognize and analyze the viewpoint of the anthropologist/position of the observer in anthropological materials

- use ethnographic examples and anthropological concepts to formulate an argument
- analyze anthropological materials in terms of methodological, reflexive and ethical issues involved in anthropological research

3. Synthesis and evaluation

For example:

- compare and contrast characteristics of specific societies and cultures
- demonstrate anthropological insight and imagination

4. Selection and use of a variety of skills appropriate to social and cultural anthropology

For example:

- identify an appropriate context, anthropological issue or question for investigation
- select and use techniques and skills, appropriate to a specific anthropological research question or issue, to gather, present, analyze and interpret ethnographic data.

Syllabus Outline:

Part 1: What is anthropology?

- 1.1 Core terms and ideas in anthropology
- 1.2 The construction and use of ethnographic accounts
- 1.3 Methods and data collection

Part 2: Social and cultural organization

- 2.1 Individuals, groups and society
- 2.2 Societies and cultures in contact
- 2.3 Kinship as an organizing principle
- 2.4 Political organization
- 2.5 Economic organization and the environment
- 2.6 Systems of knowledge
- 2.7 Belief systems and practices
- 2.8 Moral systems

Part 3: Observation and critique exercise (SL only)

Assessment Outline (end of course IB assessments are mandatory for IB courses)

External assessment (3 hours) 80%

Paper 1 (1 hour) : 30\$

Three compulsory questions based on an unseen text, covering aspects drawn from the whole syllabus. (20 marks)

Paper 2 (2 hours) 50%

Ten questions based on part 2 of the syllabus. Students choose **two** questions to be answered in essay form. (44 marks)

Internal assessment 20%

Two compulsory activities to be internally assessed by the teacher and externally moderated by the IB. (20 marks)

- o A one-hour observation followed by a written report of 600–700 words.
- o A critique of the initial report of 700–800 words.