

IB Social and Cultural Anthropology



Introduction:

Social and Cultural Anthropology in the IB focuses on understanding human societies, cultures, and their development. Through studying different cultures, students explore topics like identity, kinship, politics, and belief systems. This subject encourages critical thinking, promotes cultural sensitivity, and examines the complexities of human behavior across the globe. Students engage with key anthropological concepts, theories, and fieldwork methods, developing skills in analysis and interpretation. By comparing diverse ways of life, you'll gain insight into how cultural practices shape societies, preparing you for global citizenship in an increasingly interconnected world.

Course structure:

The course is structured into three parts:

- **Part 1 – Engaging with Anthropology:** This looks at the language of anthropology, the practice of anthropology and anthropological theories.
- **Part 2 – Engaging with ethnography:** This uses knowledge from part 1 to analyse texts from anthropological research. We study four main ethnographies that focus on the areas of health, illness and healing; conflict; the body and belonging.
- **Part 3 – Engaging in Anthropological Practice:** This is where students are given the opportunity to carry out their own anthropological research in a research setting of their choice.

Entry requirements:

To be admitted onto this course you will need to meet the following requirements:

- Grade 5+ in both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

Careers:

Successful completion of the course can help gain access to a diverse career paths such as:

- Anthropology/sociology
- Internal development specialisms
- Cultural consultancy
- Human rights advocacy
- Journalism
- Museum/gallery management
- Policy analysis

The subject will also support access to a wide variety of employment, apprenticeships and higher education options.

Assessment:

Internal assessment (25%):

- Demonstration of engagement in anthropological practice by completion of anthropological research.

External assessment (75%):

- **Paper 1, 2 hours (30%)**
 - Section A: Three compulsory questions, based on an unseen text and one compulsory question from part 1 of the course.
 - Section B: One question on anthropological ethics.
- **Paper 2, 2 hours 30 minutes (45%)**
 - Section A: One compulsory question from part 2 of the course.
 - Section B: Students choose two questions based on part 2 of the course.