



MARKSCHEME

May 2010

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY

Higher Level

Paper 1

5 pages

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1. Explain how religion and gender affect the experience of salsa dancers. [6 marks]

This primarily descriptive question requires candidates to draw on the ethnographic materials present in the text itself. The text provides examples of how salsa dancing cannot be entirely separated from the social and cultural context in which the dancing takes place.

So, for example, in Belfast, the religion of the dancers is a limit on where individuals may choose to dance because in some places they may not be entirely certain of the religious background of their dance partner. While salsa dancing does to some extent break down religious sectarian barriers it cannot entirely overcome the barriers that continue to divide Catholic from Protestant.

However, the German salsa dancers find it difficult to entirely give up elements of their German culture and in particular, to accept that in salsa dancing women follow the lead of the male dancer, such has been the case in Hamburg. This runs counter to the German understanding of equality for both genders and is difficult for the German salsa dancers to accept and adapt to.

Better candidates will be able to select relevant examples from the text to produce a reasoned and coherent answer which compares the different religious and gendered elements revealed in the anthropological study of salsa dancing in different parts of the world.

Candidates do not need to cover all the possible points raised above or in the text to obtain full marks. However, they do need to demonstrate a clear understanding of the contextual nature of all social encounters and how individual identity is a social product which is shaped by pre-existing religious, political, geographical and gendered understandings located in culture and society.

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–2	There is an attempt to organize the response and identify relevant points but the response relies too heavily on quotations from the text <i>and/or</i> limited generalizations are offered.
3–4	The response is organized, identifies and explains relevant points, and offers generalizations.
5–6	The response is organized, identifies and explains relevant points and links them to generalizations, demonstrating good anthropological understanding.

2. Incorporating theoretical perspectives in your answer, explain the relationship between globalization and group identity with reference to salsa dancing. [6 marks]

Salsa dancing began in New York and has now become a global product. In each location the dancers make something distinct and unique of this global product. Salsa dancing becomes what those with time and money to spare need it to be to fulfil their desires and satisfy their imaginations.

For Latin Americans living far from their homelands the globalization of salsa allows them to return, for the duration of a dance class, to their imagined roots and to help them create and preserve their self-identities abroad. The potential irony of the situation in which Latin Americans can truly become Latin American in Belfast or Hamburg while dancing salsa when they never did this while living in Latin America itself will not be lost on the stronger candidates. Globalization necessitates a discovery or affirmation of identity on the part of Latin Americans which is unproblematic while they reside in Latin America.

For those who have not left their country of origin, but who seek to escape it momentarily, salsa dancing provides the fantasy they seek. This applies to the German salsa dancers. However, they have difficulty in putting aside their notions of gender equality on the dance floor in following the male-led dance. This is not so apparent among the Latin American migrants who have a different relationship with the music and the dance. In Belfast, the dance is more about integration between Protestant and Catholic communities as well as escapism.

Globalization in this text does two things: it is about fashioning distinctive group identities through a new worldwide product; and it is reinvented in local cultural contexts in that the various groups have different relationships to the same dance and music.

Candidates will be expected to draw on their pre-existing knowledge of globalization to engage with these points.

This knowledge should clearly refer to relevant theoretical works or perspectives.

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–2	The response is mainly descriptive and relies on quotations, but may demonstrate limited understanding of anthropological issues and concepts.
3–4	The response demonstrates some understanding of anthropological issues and concepts or theory, <i>or</i> the response recognizes the viewpoint of the anthropologist, <i>but</i> not all of these.
5–6	The response demonstrates a critical understanding of anthropological issues, concepts and theory, <i>and</i> recognizes the viewpoint of the anthropologist.

3. **Compare and contrast the identities of salsa dancers with the identities of *one* other group.** [8 marks]

Candidates may – **but do not need to** – select societies or groups that directly compare or contrast with the identities of the salsa dancers mentioned in the text. Their answers, for instance, need not revolve around dance or performance so long as they are about the nature of identity and how – and perhaps why – identity is formed and sustained, possibly negotiated and challenged, or even collapsed and changed completely. In other words, the measure of this answer lies in the manner of comparison and contrast, in harnessing ethnographic knowledge, rather than it being a test of knowledge of a similar case study.

Candidates must situate the comparative case in terms of group, place, author and ethnographic context to gain more than [4 marks].

Better candidates will draw attention to the changeable nature of identity in at least the case of the identities of the salsa dancers, if not in their own material as well.

In order to obtain full marks, answers must be organized in a clear manner, highlighting similarities, differences and generalizations. It is entirely possible to get full marks by comparing and contrasting a markedly different case with the example here of different identities of salsa dancers. Such answers will address a number of points of comparison **and** contrast.

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–2	Comparative ethnography is presented in limited detail and its relevance is only partly established. It is not identified in terms of place, author or historical context. The response may not be structured as a comparison.
3–4	Comparative ethnography is presented in limited detail but its relevance is established. The comparative ethnography is identified in terms of place, author and historical context, <i>or</i> the response is clearly structured as a comparison.
5–6	Comparative ethnography is presented and its relevance is successfully established. The comparative ethnography is identified in terms of place, author and historical context, <i>and</i> the response is clearly structured as a comparison. Either similarities <i>or</i> differences are discussed in detail, <i>but</i> not both.
7–8	Comparative ethnography is presented and its relevance is successfully established. The comparative ethnography is identified in terms of place, author and historical context, <i>and</i> the response is clearly structured as a comparison. Similarities <i>and</i> differences are discussed in detail. The response demonstrates good anthropological understanding.