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Social and cultural anthropology
Higher level
Paper 2

11 May 2026

Zone A morning | **Zone B** morning | **Zone C** morning

2 hours 30 minutes

Instructions to students

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Section A: answer the question.
- Section B: answer two questions.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[45 marks]**.

Section A

Answer the question.

1. With reference to ethnographic material from **one** area of inquiry you have studied, discuss how culture **or** materiality **or** society helps you to understand **one** of the following real-world issues that is grounded in a contemporary example:
 - environment
 - inequality
 - globalization
 - poverty
 - technology.

[15]

Section B

Answer **two** questions from the three remaining areas of inquiry you have studied. Each question must be from a **different** area of inquiry. You must use specific and clearly identified ethnographic illustrations. Each question is worth [15 marks].

Belonging

2. Discuss change in relation to **either** globalization **or** the nation-state.
3. To what extent can identity inform our understanding of **one** of the following:
 - community
 - ideology
 - discourses of childhood, youth, ageing (choose **one**)
 - the politics of inclusion and exclusion.

Classifying the world

4. Examine belief and knowledge in relation to **either** the sacred/profane **or** cosmology.
5. Discuss power in relation to **one** of the following:
 - commodification
 - classification
 - embodiment of social inequalities
 - liminality.

Communication, expression and technology

6. Discuss identity in relation to **either** communication **or** transnationalism.
7. Examine social relations in relation to **one** of the following:
 - exchange
 - technology
 - communication in global times
 - writing and orality.

Conflict

8. Discuss society in relation to **either** resistance **or** governmentality.
9. Examine belief and knowledge in relation to **one** of the following:
 - social control
 - consensus
 - social movements
 - human rights.

Development

10. To what extent is culture important for **either** sustainability **or** modernization?
11. Examine change in relation to **one** of the following:
 - globalization
 - neo-colonialism
 - debates on development and under-development
 - economic and environmental sustainability.

Health, illness and healing

12. Compare and contrast change in relation to **either** suffering **or** health with reference to **two** societies you have studied.
13. Discuss social relations in relation to **one** of the following:
 - biomedicine
 - healing practices
 - ethnopsychology
 - the body.

Movement, time and space

14. Compare and contrast power in relation to **either** globalization **or** exclusion with reference to **two** societies you have studied.
15. Examine society in relation to **one** of the following:
 - movement
 - liminality
 - exploration of time
 - social construction of space and boundaries.

Production, exchange and consumption

16. Compare and contrast change in relation to **either** consumption **or** production with reference to **two** societies you have studied.
17. Discuss materiality in relation to **one** of the following:
- capitalism
 - exchange
 - the place of the economy
 - commodification.

The body

18. To what extent are social relations important for **either** the self **or** the body?
19. Examine power in relation to **one** of the following:
- subjectivity
 - commodification
 - marginalized bodies
 - the lived body.
-

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