

# **MARKSCHEME**

**November 2003**

## **SOCIAL AND CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY**

**Standard Level**

**Paper 1**

- 1. Explain how Kayapó self-presentation has been transformed through their encounter with other cultures. [5 marks]**

Candidates here are expected to provide straightforwardly descriptive materials from the passage, but to do so in an organized fashion and in their own words. Prior to the emergence of the international interest in their plight and that of the tropical rain forest, the Kayapó followed the general pattern adopted by all their neighbouring groups in downplaying external signs of indigenous distinctiveness, by donning Western-style garments, for example. Since the advent of international concern, they have reversed their strategies, and have used “traditional” forms of self-presentation in strategic ways. They now make visible use of near-nudity, body paints, and feather adornments, particularly in contexts where these forms of dress will have a dramatic effect on multiple audiences (in the courtroom, in political demonstrations, for media consumption). However, they also wisely conceal body adornment that they may have used in the past but which may contradict the image that their environmentalist allies in the West wish to cultivate about them, such as monkey and jaguar teeth, as these objects do not sit well with an image of the Indian living in perfect harmony with his environment. So the Kayapó’s new “fashion sense” is not a simple return to their earlier forms of self-presentation (even though it is probably perceived that way by Western environmentalists), but a highly politicized process of selection of adornments that will have the effect they desire.

Candidates may organize their answers in various ways, to equally good effect. For example, they may separate the different “kinds” of Westerners that constitute the Kayapó’s interlocutors, discussing separately the distinct effects that the new presentation styles have on the Brazilian judge on the one hand and, on the other hand, the environmentalism activists outside Brazil. However, candidates must present the materials in their own words, and must demonstrate explicitly their understanding of how the materials they present is relevant to the question.

- 2. Explain the ways in which environmentalists are selective in their understanding of tropical rain forest Indians and their plight. [6 marks]**

Western environmentalists bring to the situation a particular preconception of the way in which an Amazonian Indian dresses, acts, and lives. This preconception stems from the widely held view, in the Western popular imagination, that Amazonian Indians live in harmony with their natural environment, as “natural conservationists”. Candidates here are expected to approach this view with critical scrutiny, with the help of the text. An anthropological perspective on the situation focuses on the fact that the relationship between Amazonian Indians and their natural environment is as complex as in any other society. The Kayapó may now be shirtless and adorned with body paints, but these adornments (or lack thereof) are as social as the adornments favoured by members of any human society. Environmentalists approve of certain forms of self-presentation (*e.g.* near-nudity, head dresses, “war dances”) which they see as evidence of “closeness to nature”, but find other forms more unsettling (*e.g.* monkey and jaguar teeth). The passage also suggests that, for the Kayapó, the struggle concerns land, while what is at issue for the environmentalists is a combination of environmental preservation, sustainability, and indigenous preservation, which only overlaps in part with Kayapó concerns.

Answers may be developed in a variety of ways, as long as candidates discuss explicitly the relevance to the question of the materials they present and do so in their own words, although here they may find it expedient to quote certain key phrases such as “natural environmentalist” and “greening”.

- 3. Compare the way in which Amazonian Indians use signs of difference for political ends with another subgroup or group. In your answer refer to how the chosen subgroup or group constructs difference or uniqueness to achieve certain political, economic or social goals. [9 marks]**

This question provides candidates the opportunity to demonstrate their comparative skills following the guidance embedded in the question. The comparative case may concern an identity-defined subgroup within a society or state, defined for example in terms of ethnicity, race, gender, social class, religion, or sexuality. Or it may consist of an entire social group in the national or international arena. Whatever comparative case is chosen, responses must be well-organized and framed as a comparison, showcasing the similarities, differences and generalizations between the two cases. In addition, the answer must focus on the construction of similarity or uniqueness. Candidates must situate the comparative case in terms of group, place, author, and ethnographic present.

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