Written assignment: Receptive and productive skills

Duration: 2 hours in a single session  
Location:  It is done in school but assessed externally by the IBO  
Weighing: 20%

Main Goal: develop intercultural understanding through reflection on the differences and similarities between the student's own culture and the culture of Spanish speaking countries.  
  
1. Culmination of an independent research on one topic.

2. General task: 

* to describe a topic.
* compare/contrast the topic with respect to their own culture and the Spanish culture.
* reflect on these similarities and differences by answering 3 guiding questions.

3. Teacher helps in picking the topic and title.

4. Student driven with teacher guidance.

5. Students may begin as soon as they know their topic and title.

6. Sources for the investigation: any source and any language may be used as a means for the investigation.

7. Written assignment must be the independent work of the student.

8. Written assignment must be handwritten in Spanish during class under teacher monitoring.

9.The topic must be from the themes studied in class:

     a. individual and society

Personal details appearance and character

Daily routines

Relationships

Education

Food and drink

Shopping

Physical health

     b. Leisure and work

Sports

Entertainment

Holidays

Transport

Employment

Technology

     c. Urban and rural environment

Neighborhood

Town and services

Weather

Environmental concerns

Global issues

Physical geography

10. The use of dictionaries and reference/resource materials may be used during the writing session.  
  

Specific requirements of the written assignment

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Length 200 - 300 words (no more, no less).  Important: students who write less than 200 words or more than 300 words will have 2 points deducted. | Sources 2 - 4 sources (preferably in Spanish).  However, sources in any language may be used.   Important: the sources brought into the classroom for the writing assignment session must:   1. Clean 2. Unmarked   Note: Students may mark or annotate the sources during the writing assignment session. | Purpose of communication Description, comparison/contrast, reflection. | Structure The writing assignment needs to be structured as follows:   1. Title 2. Paragraph #1: description 3. Paragraph#2:  comparison 4. Paragraph # 3-5:  three reflections (one paragraph per question.   Note:  all the writing piece has one title, ***no***subtitles or subheadings, and 5 paragraphs. |

Paragraphs 3-5: Reflection part of the writing task

Each paragraph needs to answer a ***different***reflection question about the topic the student is writing.

Following are the (3) reflection questions:

1. What part of your topic surprised you and why? (paragraph # 3)
2. Why do you believe these cultural similarities or differences exist? (paragraph # 4)
3. What might a person from a Spanish speaking culture find different about your topic in your own culture?(paragraph # 5)
4. Formal guidelines  
   1. Students ***must***submit the following:

* a cover sheet completed by the students and signed by the student and the teacher.
* a bibliography in standard format with references to all sources in all languages.

2. It is ***highly***recommended that quotations are included.  However, they will not be part of the overall word count (200 - 300 words).

3. Quotations that are not appropriately referenced will be considered ***plagiarism***.

4. Source materials ***may be*** marked or annotated once the written assignment session starts.  
  
Formal requirements by the IBO

1. The written assignment must be written in ***Spanish***.
2. The cover sheet is ***completed***and ***signed***by the student and teacher.
3. All extracts from the source/reference materials are ***referenced correctly***.
4. A bibliography in***standard format*** is included with references to ***all***sources

The packet that you will turn in at the end of your testing session are:

1. Cover sheet
2. Essay
3. Bibliography
4. Source materials

Structure of your essay

Title: Give your essay an appropriate title.

Paragraph # 1: Write an introduction paragraph that describes the topic you chose.

Paragraph # 2: write about the differences and similarities between your topic in your own culture and the culture of the Spanish speaking country you chose.

Paragraph # 3: What part of your topic surprised you and why?

Paragraph # 4: Why do you think these cultural differences exist?

Paragraph # 5: What might a person from a Spanish speaking culture find different about your topic in your own culture?