

Artifacts in language B essays

When writing an essay on a Group 2 subject you have the option to write under the thematic heading of “Culture and society” (officially called “Category 2b”). Under this heading you can base your work on a “cultural artifact” – a term that often leads to confusion.

The following table provides a list of acceptable cultural artifacts:

Cultural artifacts	Not cultural artifacts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Written documents ● Newspapers ● Magazines ● News headlines ● Articles ● Books (other than literary) ● Cartoons ● Adverts ● Leaflets, brochures or manifestos ● Laws or policies ● Historical documents or records ● Spoken documents ● Screenplays ● Radio or television programmes ● Song lyrics ● Interviews ● Visual documents ● Works of fine art ● Architecture (buildings, monuments and so forth) ● Films ● Stamps ● Cultural icons ● Fashion items and accessories (as a manifestation of culture) ● Food items, dishes (as a manifestation of culture) ● Brands (as a manifestation of culture) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Political events (elections, referendums) ● Historical events ● Social movements (for example, riots) ● Social issues (unemployment, immigration, racism, school violence, the role of women in X country and so on) ● Towns or regions (“travel guide” extended essays) ● (Minority) ethnic groups ● Media trends ● Styles of music ● Sports ● Traditions ● Institutions (such as school systems and political parties)

Source: IB Coordinator's Notes, IBO, September 2015.