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2012 HSC - Aboriginal Studies
Band 5/6
Sample 3 Question 20(b)

b) The Mabo decision of 1992 was of great significance and of high importance to the overall Indigenous peoples within Australia, as it allowed all Indigenous communities to take action in order to gain their land back.

The Mabo Court case of 1992 highlighted the importance of Country to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals as it showed the determination and willpower of Mabo in order to gain his land back. Through Mabo's fight, the wider society of Australia could gain a better understanding of the importance of country to Aboriginal people as it allows one to have a strong sense of identity. Through Mabo winning his fight for Native Title, he allowed the wider Indigenous communities to see what ~~had~~ was possible, leaving a turning point in Australian history and an even greater turning point in the lives of

the indigenous people living in Australia.

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From Mabo's leadership and success, many other Indigenous communities were able to fight for their land, and with much success, many Aboriginal communities won their Native Title and gained their own sense of identity and belonging to place back.

A significant moment in Australian history was when the Prime Minister, Gough Whitlam, returned the land back into the hands of an Aboriginal Elder named Vincent Lingiari. The Gurindji people ~~were able to find determination and willpower to fight for their land through the previous success of Mabo. They protested~~ in the Wave Hill Walk Off of 1966 to have their land back, ^{this} further emphasising ^{ed} ~~their~~ the importance of land to Aboriginal people and with the success of Vincent Lingiari, all

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Aboriginal people were able to see the potential they have in gaining their land back and becoming ~~seen~~ recognized as the traditional owners and keepers of the land.

Recently in Perth Western Australia, the Noongar people have won Native ~~Natives~~ ^{Titles} over ~~a~~ large areas of the lands in Perth. Through this they have been able to gain their land back with large amounts of compensation. For the Noongar people it means that ~~are~~ they are able to reconnect to Country and further build their understanding of culture and identity. By having the land back, the Noongar people are ~~is~~ able to create an economic benefit for themselves as they begin to create schools for Indigenous children on their traditional lands. With this they are given the chance to start again as the next generation of



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Noongar children can grow up having a strong understanding of their culture and therefore a strong sense of identity. As schools require teachers and grounds men, the Noongar schools can employ other indigenous members of the community who are qualified and willing to seek employment. This can further lead to more indigenous individuals wanting to gain an education as they see the opportunity to become a teacher within their own community. This further develops their self esteem and reconnects them to culture and identity.

Through Mabo's case the individuals of the community were able to reconnect with the land, enhancing their personal identity and allowing them to feel a greater sense of belonging. Similarly to the Noongar people of Perth, the next generation will be able

to be surrounded by their culture from a young age, increasing their awareness and creating a stronger future for that Indigenous community.

Overall, through Mabo's success in 1992 a ripple effect was produced ~~in~~ throughout other Indigenous communities allowing them to gain their land back and become recognized as the First ~~people~~ people of the country. Mabo's success had a huge significance to the widespread Indigenous communities across Australia as they were able to become motivated and influenced by Mabo's decision and subsequent legislation on winning Native Title. Through Mabo, other Indigenous communities were able to gain native Title, resulting in more communities gaining a sense of belonging and acceptance within the Australian society.

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