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2012 HSC - Aboriginal Studies

Band 4/5

Sample 3 Question 13(a)

The current educational outcomes for Aboriginal people is well below the national average and considerably behind that of the non-Indigenous population. Due to the four major problems being high suspension, low retention, low attendance and poor achievement.

In terms of suspension an Aboriginal child is three times more likely to be suspended due to acting out in class, swearing, fighting etc. Due to high suspension, this can lead to low academic marks in exams such as 'ELLA', SNAP and 'NAPLAN'; 18% of Aboriginal students scored in the highest band in 2008 compared to around 48% non-Indig. These low marks lead to low self-esteem and low confidence.

In lack of culturally correct or lack of Aboriginal content in the syllabus Aboriginals students have a retention rate of 33% compared to 63% non-Indigenous students. With the help of Aboriginal Assistant officers (AEO) and introduction of Aboriginal studies into the syllabus, the retention rate is slowly improving.

Aboriginal students are on average three times more likely to not attend school, possibly not receiving the 'push' from home or are to 'wag' 'truant' class if they attend. This again can be attributed to the low lack of content and minimal Aboriginal teachers as mentors.

In these four problems we can see Aboriginal people suffer the greatest. These poor attempts at education can affect them in all aspects of life and is the highest impactor towards the low socio-economic status of indigenous people today.

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