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

a) ~~The Country to Aboriginal people holds the essence of their dreaming~~

For Aboriginal people today, the Country continues to hold the traditions and the stories of the Dreamtime. For indigenous people, the land is the essence of their Dreaming, connecting the past, present and future and providing a great sense of identity to the Aboriginal peoples from that particular area. Through the Country, ~~from~~ kinship lines are identified and Aboriginal peoples totems exist within and on that country, further increasing a sense of belonging to place and a connection to land. As the Indigenous people define who they are from the Country they come from, it is of huge importance for Aboriginal people to maintain their connection and contact with their Country.

Source a identifies Prime Minister Gough Whitlam returning the land to Vincent Lingiari, an Aboriginal

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member. This highlights the connection to land that Aboriginal people feel as Gough literally pours the land back into Vincent's hands. By this action, Gough has not only poured the soils of the land into Vincent Lingiari's palms, but he has poured into his hands an identity, a sense of belonging, a freedom, a connection to place, a Dreaming story and an ~~an~~ understanding of the past, present and future. This is because Aboriginal people live off the land, literally and physically, emotionally and mentally. The indigenous people are at one with their land and when "dispossessed" from their land, they become dispossessed from their own self.

Due to the lack of identity that Aboriginal people feel as a result of being dispossessed from their land, they turn to such substances as drugs and alcohol in order to

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"drown" their sorrows and escape the feelings of disconnection, loneliness and lack of identity. As alcohol and drug abuse most commonly relates to suicide, injuries and abuse, it becomes a highly negative result for all indigenous peoples. Therefore, it is highly important for all Aboriginal people today to maintain contact with their country as it allows them to feel apart of something and it provides them with a positive feeling of identity and belonging.

Overall, by connecting to country, Indigenous people gain a strong sense of identity, therefore decreasing their need to use drugs and alcohol, and having a positive effect on their overall wellbeing.

← Tick this box if you have continued this answer in another writing booklet.