**DE VILLIERS SOURCE – DIAGNOSTIC/PRACTICE EXAMINATION QUESTION (Week 5)**

1. **Analyse the source to explain the author’s stance on the repatriation of human remains.**

Remember to:

* use “extract excerpts” in your response
* include a powerful topic sentence
* discuss the usefulness and reliability of the source, of the author and her sources, without disrupting argument.)

200-350 words

1. **Consider these articles/texts. How might you compare them with de Villiers’ texts should you be asked the same question but with regard TWO sources?** <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/article_1623jsp/>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-04-26/ancestral-remains-repatriation-pacific-museums-universities/103743936>

**Source 1: Extract from a lecture by Anne De Villiers at the University of Melbourne in 2018.**

Currently, significant numbers of Indigenous Ancestral Remains and cultural material are held in collecting institutions all over the world. The majority of these collections were collected without consent and furthermore, were removed from contextual Indigenous knowledge, to be replaced with the colonisers’ interpretation.

Hence, as Nathan “Mudyi” Sentance, wrote recently: *My ancestors are in these memory institutions, but their voices are missing from the words written, the art created and the cultural objects taken. All of their cultural knowledge and their history is recorded and interpreted through the colonisers’ lens. We are part of the memory conveyed by galleries, libraries, archives and museums, but we have had no say or agency in construction of it… Many institutions have for decades obstinately refused to return them. Precious little diplomatic effort or public financial resource has been applied to convince these institutions to do otherwise. – Paul Daley, 2017*

The repatriation of a community’s Ancestral Remains is often a long, emotionally exhausting, painstaking and arduous process. However a community’s repatriation efforts are fuelled by cultural customs which dictate that Ancestors aren’t at rest until they have been appropriately laid to rest on their own country.

Since 2014 I’ve been working as a Research Assistant on Return Reconcile Renew… The project has also been invaluable in bringing together Indigenous communities from around the world who are engaging with repatriation; one example was the recent one day symposium at the National Museum of Australia entitled The Long Journey Home: The Repatriation of Indigenous Remains across the Frontiers of Asia and the Pacific on 7th May 2018. The event was co-convened by the National Museum of Australia, as well as the Australian National University’s College of Asia and the Pacific and National Centre for Indigenous Studies.

**Context Statement:**  
Anne De Villiers is a Research Archivist at the Scholarship Research Centre at the University of Melbourne. She is a project manager for the ‘Protocol for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Content’ and the ARC Linkage Project - 'Return, reconcile, renew: understanding the history, effects and opportunities of repatriation and building an evidence base for the future'

**Source:** Anne de Villiers, June 18 2018, Melbourne University