

CULTURAL HERITAGE MANAGEMENT

Assignment 6

Date : 20 May 2026

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Question: 1. “Impact is not simply the result of a project, but a change in the baseline condition.” discuss this statement .

Impact assignment is concerned with understanding how a proposed action changes exiting environmental , social economic and culture conditions. The statement is important because an impact cannot be understood only by describing what a project produces . It must be compared with a baseline, which refers to the conditions that exists before the project begins. The baseline provides the reference point against which change can be identified and evaluated (**IAIA, 2009**).

For example, constructing a new road may create employment and improve transportation, but it may also increase traffic, noise, pollution and pressure on a historic landscape. The actual impact is there for the difference between the original condition and the condition that exists after the project. This includes direct, indirect and cumulative changes . Some impacts may occur during construction , while others May appear years later . without a reliable baseline, it is difficult to determine whither a change was caused by the project, by wider development or by natural processes.

In cultural heritage management, the baseline should include not only physical buildings and archaeological remains but also Heritage values, setting, views, community relationships traditional practices and patterns of use. This is important this is important because heritage significance can be affected even when a historic structure itself is not physical damaged **UNESCO’s** approach to Heritage protection recognises the importance of protecting the context and values associated with Heritage properties (**UNESCO, 1972**).

Impact assignment should therefore be treated as an ongoing process rather than a one-time prediction. Baseline studies, consulation, monitoring and mitigation should continue throughout the project life cycle.social impacts also need to be considered because changes in access, livelihoods, community identify and quality of life may be significant (**Vanclay, 2003**).

Overall, the statement means that the key issue in impact assignment is measurable change from an existing condition. A good Heritage management process identifies such changes early and seeks to avoid, minimise or compensate for harmful effects.