Question 10

Explain the importance of attachment to place in human development.

[4 marks]

General

- This is a 4 mark question, and is therefore point marked.
- The command word ‘Explain’ is used which, in this question, means to set out the reasons why attachment to place is important in human development. It assesses Assessment Objective 1.
- Allow 1 mark per valid point with extra mark(s) for developed points (d).

Indicative content

Answers might include the following:

- Within the first year (usually by nine months) most babies form a strong attachment to their primary carer; for the baby, this person is the first environment or ‘place’ they know (1).
- A child’s first attachment (or attachments) is/are key to the healthy emotional development of a child – as noted by psychologists who have studied the differing development of children who lack such caring relationships (1). Tuan wrote that: ‘The caring adult is … a source of nurture and haven of stability’ (d).
- [Tuan suggested that] our attachment to places at greater geographical scales, develops in parallel with our physical ability to explore them (1), from initially rolling to crawling to walking etc. (d).
- As the depth of our feeling for (or attachment to) places is influenced by the depth of our knowledge and understanding of them, our attachment to places, particularly our home, increases with age (1).
- Our attachment to a place can be so strong that it features as a central part of identity (1).
- However, some people may identify with different places (at different scales) according to their unique upbringing (1) such as being both ‘Indian’ and ‘from Yorkshire’ (d).
• As a result of globalisation/increased flexibility of labour across international borders, it is argued that a growing group of people have a more flexible sense of where ‘home’ is (1), as they have grown up in different locations/on different continents (d); with competing local and national and parental identities (d).

• Change in the nature of places may cause individuals to re-evaluate their role in society (1). For example, if a factory closes leading to the job losses, the sense of self-worth of those that have been made redundant may be affected by reduced interactions with fellow workers (d).