



NZQA Assessment Support Material

Unit standard	27850				
Title	Demonstrate understanding of New Zealand's system of government and its formation and operation				
Level	1	Credits	4	Version	2

Note

The following guidelines are supplied to enable assessors to carry out valid and consistent assessment using this internal assessment resource.

Assessors must manage authenticity for any assessment from a public source, because students may have access to the assessment schedule or student exemplar material. Use of this assessment resource without modification may mean that students' work is not authentic. The assessor will need to change figures, measurements or data sources or set a different context or topic.

While this ASM lends itself to written assessments, there are other activities and approaches that could be taken.

See Generic Resources and Guidelines at <https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/assessment-and-moderation/assessment-of-standards/generic-resources/>

Assessor guidelines

Context/setting

In this activity, students will demonstrate an understanding of systems of New Zealand's system of government and its formation and operation.

Students are required to demonstrate an understanding of the NZ system, how it elects its MPs and how a government is formed after the election, the participants in that formation, and the Parliamentary system of government.

A W A R D O F G R A D E S



- For award with **Achieved**, students must be able to demonstrate understanding of the current voting system in New Zealand, the subsequent formation of a government and its participants and the operation of the parliamentary style of government in New Zealand.

AWARD OF GRADE S - CONTINUATION



- For award with **Merit**, the description of New Zealand's system of government demonstrates detailed understanding by including relevant supporting detail, such as:
 - key elements of the Mixed Member Proportional voting system and the parliamentary system of government (e.g. one house, several parties, cabinet, Governor General); and
 - the role and authority of the main participants in its formation and operation.
- For award with **Excellence**, the description of New Zealand's system of government demonstrates insightful understanding by using a developed actual example of a coalition to show the connection between the formation of an MMP government and its operation within the Parliament.

CONDITIONS OF ASSESSMENT

Assessors will set the conditions of assessment as appropriate.

Assessment activity

This assessment activity is a presentation and can be in the form of: a report as a political journalist; a PowerPoint presentation for a seminar; a wiki; or a blog, political style; or equivalent.

This assessment activity has three tasks.

Task One

The student describes: the voting system as used for the 2008 General Election in New Zealand; the subsequent formation of a government; and makes reference to NZ's parliamentary style of government.

Task Two

The student describes in detail the 2008 General Election in New Zealand, and the subsequent formation of a government. Reference must be made to key elements of MMP and NZ's parliamentary style of government, and the role and authority of the main participants in its formation and operation.

Task Three

The student demonstrates insightful understanding of New Zealand's system of government. They must use the 2008 General Election coalition process, to show the connection between the formation of an MMP government and its operation within the Parliament.

Resource requirements

Assessors may find the following resources useful:

www.parliament.govt.nz

www.elections.org.nz

There are a series of publications focused in New Zealand's general elections and electoral system, for example:

Jon Johansson and Stephen Levine (eds.), *Kicking the Tyres: The New Zealand General Election and Electoral Referendum of 2011* (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2012)

Nigel S. Roberts and Stephen Levine (eds.), *Key to Victory: The New Zealand General Election of 2008* (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2010)

Nigel S. Roberts and Stephen Levine (eds.), *The Baubles of Office: The New Zealand General Election of 2005* (Wellington: Victoria University Press, 2007)

Stephen Levine *Electoral and Constitutional Change in New Zealand: An MMP Source Book*, (Palmerston North: Dunmore, 1999)

Nigel S. Roberts, et al., *New Zealand Under MMP: A New Politics?* (Auckland University Press, 1996)

Additional information

Teaching and learning guidelines that inform legal studies as it is taught in New Zealand can be found at <http://seniorsecondary.tki.org.nz/Social-sciences/Legal-studies>.

Assessment Schedule

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Judgements for achievement		Judgements for achievement with merit	Judgements for achievement with excellence
New Zealand's system of government is described in terms of the current voting system, the subsequent process and participants involved in the formation of a government, and the operation of the parliamentary system of government, in New Zealand.		<p>The description of New Zealand's system of government demonstrates detailed understanding by including relevant supporting detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> key elements of the MMP voting system and the parliamentary system of government (e.g. one house, several parties, cabinet, Governor General); and the role and authority of the main participants in its formation and operation. 	The description of New Zealand's system of government demonstrates insightful understanding by using a developed actual example of a coalition to show the connection between the formation of an MMP government and its operation within the Parliament.
Task	Evidence for achievement	Evidence for achievement with merit	Evidence for achievement with excellence
One Outcome 1 PC 1.1	Students describe the current voting system as used for the 2008 General Election in New Zealand and subsequent formation of a government with reference to New Zealand's parliamentary style of government.	The students describe in detail the 2008 General Election with reference to key elements of MMP and New Zealand's parliamentary style of government and the role and authority of the main participants in its formation and operation.	The student uses the 2008 General Election coalition process to show the connection between the formation of an MMP government and its operation within the Parliament.

	<p><i>For example: Members of NZ's Parliament, the House of Representatives, are elected through general elections, using the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP), proportional system.</i></p> <p><i>Under MMP there are two votes: one for party lists and one for electorate candidates. General elections for the NZ Parliament have used the MMP voting system since the 1996 Election.</i></p> <p><i>The 2008 General Election result: 122 seats National Party 58 seats (41 electorate, 17 list) Labour Party 43 seats (21 electorate, 22 list) Green Party 9 seats (all list) Maori Party 5 seats (all electorate) ACT New Zealand 5 seats (1 electorate, 4 list) United Future 1 seat (electorate) Progressive 1 seat (electorate).</i></p> <p>Note – for authenticity, an election other than the 2008 General Election would have to be selected.</p>	<p><i>For example: Under the MMP system you have two votes on election day:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>a party vote – lets you choose which political party you support</i> • <i>an electorate vote – lets you choose a local MP to represent your electorate.</i> <p><i>Each party must qualify to get into Parliament, by winning at least either:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>5 per cent of all the party votes at the elections, or</i> • <i>one electorate seat at the elections.</i> 	<p><i>For example: You may vote for more than one political party, for example, when you choose an electorate candidate from a party that is different from your party vote.</i></p> <p><i>Each party's share of the MPs in the House of Representatives is decided by its proportion of the party votes.</i></p> <p><i>For example, if a party wins ten per cent of the party votes it should have a total of 12 members of parliament (10 per cent of 120).</i></p>
<p>Two Outcome 1</p>	<p>Formation of a government:</p>	<p>Formation of a government: <i>The Governor-General requests the leader of the political party with the support of a</i></p>	<p>Formation of a government: <i>Before the election some parties do express a willingness to form a coalition. For example,</i></p>

<p>PC 1.1</p>	<p><i>A government is formed by a party, or parties (in a coalition), with most successful (seats won) candidates.</i></p> <p><i>Following the 2008 election the National Party and its leader John Key negotiated a coalition with the ACT, Maori and United Future parties to form a National Government. This gave National a 16-seat majority in the House.</i></p> <p><i>Forming a coalition for government: Minor parties make arrangements with major parties – the aim is to get enough seats to form a government with a working majority in the House, particularly for confidence and supply votes.</i></p> <p><i>In the NZ Parliament a government must be able to maintain confidence and supply to be able to remain the dominant majority in the House.</i></p> <p><i>Confidence: members of Parliament can propose a motion of confidence or non confidence in the government or executive.</i></p> <p><i>Supply: the government needs money to survive and has to pass bills to supply that money.</i></p>	<p><i>majority in the House to form a government.</i></p> <p><i>In 2008 John Key, as leader of the National Party, negotiated to form a minority government with confidence and supply support from the ACT, Maori and United Future parties.</i></p> <p><i>The Labour Party became the official opposition. The Green Party became the third-largest party in Parliament.</i></p> <p><i>Prior to the 2008 election the parties expressed views about who they would work with in a future government in a coalition.</i></p>	<p><i>ACT and United Future said they would join up with National. National said it wouldn't work with NZ First.</i></p> <p><i>After the election the Maori Party joined in the coalition talks with National.</i></p> <p><i>Under MMP voters support the party or parties they want in government but then have to wait after the election to see where the coalition negotiations will go.</i></p> <p><i>The Governor-General has to be assured that the leader of the political party proposing to form a government clearly has the support of a majority in the House. Under MMP this process may take longer than under the previous FPP system.</i></p> <p><i>Parties in a coalition have a formal agreement to support the government on some legislation but otherwise can vote issue by issue.</i></p>
<p>Three Outcome 1</p>	<p><i>Parliamentary system of government:</i></p>	<p><i>The ACT Party increased their seats from 2 in 2005 to 5 in 2008, the Maori Party from 4 in 2005 to 5 in 2008, but NZ First</i></p>	<p><i>The government does face confidence votes in the House and needs the support of its coalition partners at those times.</i></p>

<p>PC 1.1</p>	<p><i>This is a model of government in which the executive is drawn from and is accountable to, a parliament.</i></p> <p><i>The NZ Parliament consists of the Queen of NZ and the House of Representatives. It is unicameral – there is no upper house, just one chamber of representatives – and it is directly elected by universal suffrage. The NZ Parliament is sovereign – no other institution can over-ride its decisions.</i></p> <p>Note – for authenticity, an election other than the 2008 General Election would have to be selected.</p>	<p><i>went from 7 seats in 2005 to 0 seats in 2008.</i></p> <p><i>The National minority government needs guaranteed support to pass legislation, particularly for supply, which provides the money it needs to spend as the government.</i></p> <p><i>Under MMP, the executive is still drawn from members of Parliament but not necessarily from just one party: members of minor coalition parties may be appointed as ministers inside or outside of Cabinet.</i></p>	<p><i>MMP has changed the way Parliament operates but not the structures. The Westminster style of government still operates.</i></p> <p><i>The labels government and opposition are not as clear as under FPP: there are coalition and support arrangements between parties.</i></p>
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Final grades will be decided using professional judgement based on a holistic examination of the evidence provided against the criteria in the unit standard.