



NZQA Assessment Support Material

Unit standard	27851				
Title	Explain systems for the formation of central government, and their consequences in a New Zealand context				
Level	2	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 explain systems for the formation of central government, and compare them, with supporting detail, in relation to their key elements.

The explanation must contain the following key elements: the electoral process; subsequent formation of a government; and parliamentary system.

Supporting detail includes but is not limited to – reference to past elections, identifying strength(s) and weakness (es) for each system, identifying differing viewpoints of the system.

The systems of government for this task are NZ's current MMP system and the previous FFP system that NZ used for general elections. Students are required to describe, with reference to past elections, MMP and FPP voting systems and describe the impact of these different systems on democracy in New Zealand.

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



- For award with **Achieved**, systems for the formation of central government are explained and compared, with supporting detail, in terms of their key element(s). Key elements include – electoral process, subsequent formation of a government, parliamentary system.
- For award with **Merit**, the explanation of the systems of central government formation is developed by including relevant supporting detail:
 - the impact of the different approaches to formation of government on democracy in New Zealand; and
 - describing strength(s) and weakness(es) for each approach to the formation of government; and
 - describing differing viewpoints.
- For award with **Excellence**, the explanation of systems of central government formation and their formation and operation is fully developed by: discussing how the systems of government in New Zealand and their operation are influenced by their formation, with reference to a specific example.

C O N D I T I O N S O F A S S E S S M E N T

Assessors will set the conditions of assessment as appropriate.

Assessment activity

This assessment activity has three tasks.

Task One

1. The student will explain, with reference to the 1993 election, the First Past the Post (FPP) voting system as used in New Zealand, and with reference to the 1996 election, the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) voting system as used in New Zealand.
2. The student will compare the different systems, with supporting material, in relation to their key elements.

Task Two

1. The student will explain, with reference to the 1993 election, the First Past the Post (FPP) election and subsequent formation of government, including relevant supporting detail: the impact of the different approaches to formation of government on democracy in New Zealand; and describing a strength and weakness for each approach to the formation of government; and describing different viewpoints.
2. The student will explain, with reference to the 1996 election, the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) election and subsequent formation of government, including relevant supporting detail: the impact of the different approaches to formation of government on democracy in New Zealand; and describing a strength and weakness for each approach to the formation of government; and describing different viewpoints.

Task Three

1. The student will, using the 1993 and 1996 elections as an example, discuss how the FPP and MMP voting systems and subsequent systems of government and its operation were influenced by its formation.

Resource requirements

Assessors will provide resources, including relevant web references such as:

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

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

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

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

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



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

Unit standard		27851			
Title	Explain systems for the formation of central government, and their consequences in a New Zealand context				
Level	2	Credits	4	Version	2

Judgements for achievement		Judgements for achievement with merit		Judgements for achievement with excellence	
<p>Systems for the formation of central government are explained and compared, with supporting detail, in terms of their key element(s).</p> <p>Key elements include – electoral process, subsequent formation of a government, parliamentary system.</p> <p>For this assessment activity: students, reference the 1993 First Past the Post (FPP) and 1996 Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) elections.</p>		<p>The explanation of the systems of central government formation is developed by including relevant supporting detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the impact of the different approaches to formation of government on democracy in New Zealand; and ▪ describing strength(s) and weakness(es) for each approach to the formation of government; and ▪ describing differing viewpoints. 		<p>The explanation of systems of central government formation and operation is fully developed by: discussing how the systems of government in New Zealand and their operation are influenced by their formation, with reference to a specific example.</p>	
Task	Evidence for achievement	Evidence for achievement with merit		Evidence for achievement with excellence	
One	A part answer could read:	A part answer could read:		A part answer could read:	
Outcome 1 PC 1.1	<i>In the 1993 election, NZ used the First Past the Post (FPP) system where in each electorate the candidate with the most votes is elected and</i>	<i>In the last national election using FPP in 1993, the result was a victory for the National Party with 50 seats. Labour had 45 seats and NZ First and the Alliance 2 seats each National formed a majority government.</i>		<i>FPP was seen as increasingly undemocratic in NZ. Governments were formed with less than a majority of the popular vote. Smaller parties were left out of Parliament even though they were popular.</i>	

<p><i>the party with the most electorate seats can form the government.</i></p> <p><i>From 1996 onwards NZ has used the MMP system. Under MMP there are two votes: one for party lists and one for electorate candidates. A government is formed by a party, or parties (in a coalition), with most successful (seats won) candidates.</i></p> <p>Note – this sample answer only explains the electoral process. A full answer would need to cover the subsequent formation of a government, parliamentary system.</p>	<p><i>Negotiations in 1996, the first under MMP, took place over more than a month, with NZ First finally choosing to support National. But the coalition collapsed in 1998.</i></p> <p><i>With the FPP system, smaller parties were winning a good proportion of the popular vote but little representation in Parliament (for example, Social Credit gained over 15% in 1978 but got only 1 electorate seat).</i></p> <p><i>Women, Māori and other ethnic groups had low representation because of the electorate-based system of selecting candidates.</i></p> <p><i>One impact from MMP is that more parties, more women and a wider spread of ethnic groups are represented in Parliament.</i></p> <p><i>One weakness is that the party list is chosen by the party and not voted on by the electorate.</i></p> <p>Note – this sample answer only explains one impact and one weakness of MMP. A full answer would need to cover the impact, and strengths and weaknesses, of both MMP and FPP.</p>	<p><i>MMP has a fairer reflection of the popular votes and the party lists have led to wider representation.</i></p> <p><i>MMP did mean a change to minority governments becoming the norm. The major parties could not win a majority of seats on their own account.</i></p> <p><i>In the 1996 election National and Labour held only 81 of the 120 seats between them and the minor parties with the rest, to be negotiated with.</i></p> <p><i>Under FPP there were many wasted votes in losing electorates and for minor parties not getting seats proportional to their popular votes.</i></p> <p><i>Minor parties can have a big influence at election time, and also during the parliamentary term, on an issue by issue basis, particularly outside confidence and supply, and support agreements with other parties.</i></p> <p><i>In 1993 National formed a majority government with the most seats in parliament and were able to go ahead with their policies.</i> <i>But in 1996, after lengthy negotiations following the first MMP election, National formed a coalition government with NZ First.</i></p>
---	---	--

Specific example:

In the first MMP election in 1996, NZ First gained 17 seats, holding the balance of power in Parliament. In 1993, in the last FPP election, NZ First gained two seats only.

Following the 1996 election, Winston Peters, the NZ First leader, was able to negotiate some significant steps with National, including the positions of Deputy Prime Minister and Treasurer (a new position senior to the Minister of Finance) for Mr Peters himself.

NZ First held negotiations with both National and Labour over several weeks after the 1996 election. The coalition with National lasted until 1998 when Winston Peters was sacked by Jenny Shipley, who had replaced Jim Bolger as the National leader and Prime Minister. NZ First then withdrew from the coalition and went into opposition.

It was clear that MMP provided more opportunities for small parties to influence events in Parliament than was possible under the FPP system.

Note – for authenticity a different example would need to be used.

Final grades will be decided using professional judgement based on a holistic examination of the evidence provided against the criteria in the unit standard.