

Assessment Report

New Zealand Scholarship Agricultural & Horticultural Science 2020

Standard 93105

Part A: Commentary

The overall quality of the candidate's responses was pleasing, with most candidates completing all three questions in the allocated time. The published assessment specifications had been well utilised showing that candidates were able to prepare themselves with a thorough knowledge of the focus issues and relate them to chosen primary production systems.

The number of candidates who are awarded an 'outstanding' grade (7 or 8) in a single question continues to improve from the previous years. Generally, candidates are reasonably well prepared to meet the challenges of the scholarship examination, and they engage well with the questions that are presented in the examination.

It is worth noting that in the Scholarship performance standard, the primary production system extends from the production stage right through to the consumer stage. Some candidates tended to focus on the production stage only when answering questions in relation to the primary production system, evident in questions 1 and 2.

Part B: Report on performance standard

Candidates who were awarded **Outstanding Performance** commonly:

- provided an answer that was well structured, well-articulated, and contained evidence of comprehensive knowledge of the chosen primary production system or contemporary issue
- clearly demonstrated perception and reflection in their responses to the questions and not a rote learnt response that contained a lot of 'fact' with little unique thinking relevant to the question that had been asked.

Candidates who were awarded **Scholarship** commonly:

- discussed the questions effectively with perception and critical understanding
- applied their knowledge and understanding of the topics provided in the assessment specs (questions 2 and 3; Global disruptions to trade and the genetic modification or genetic engineering issue). They also applied their knowledge and understanding of sustainability in Question 1 within a selected primary production system
- planned their response for each question to assist the construction of an answer that contained accurate, relevant and appropriate information
- related the questions to the whole primary production system – not just at the farm or production or consumer level
- provided a well-structured series of paragraphs or sections within their answer
- used clear, correct statements and appropriate data to support their discussions.

Other candidates

Candidates who were **not awarded Scholarship** commonly:

- provided vague, shallow answers that lacked detail in either the information provided, or the discussion of that information
- presented data that were inaccurate or irrelevant
- did not fully apply knowledge and understanding that would be expected from a candidate who had fully engaged the Level 3 Agricultural and Horticultural Science course. This includes the wider sustainability issues of primary production (environmental, economic and social), as well as considering change over time and disruptions to specific parts of the primary production system, including the overall implication to the whole system.
- gave rote-learned answers that were either irrelevant to the question or lacked depth.

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[Subject page](#)

Previous years' reports

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