

Assessment Report

New Zealand Scholarship Earth & Space Science 2020

Standard 93104

Part A: Commentary

Successful Scholarship candidates showed methodical and careful examination technique especially regarding the careful reading and use of the resource material provided. Candidates demonstrated a good understanding of the water cycle and plate tectonics. Integration of the resource into an answer was important and candidates synergised with their own ideas to form a final answer. Time management was required for a successful candidate to answer all questions to a high standard.

Successful candidates had prepared by expanding their general understanding of Earth and Space Science including understanding of formation of undersea volcanoes and the risks involved with their eruptions. Successful candidates had a broad understanding of Earth and Space Science with some familiarity with Physics, Chemistry and Biology. Their answers had an Earth and Space focus without necessarily having in-depth information from other branches of Science, for example Chemistry when discussing the oxygen 18 and 16 isotopes.

Convincing and clear writing was important for candidates to convey their answers fully.

Part B: Report on performance standard

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

- used critical thinking to link and reference the resource to its fullest capacity. For example, discussing the implications of how the distance from K2-1Bs star affects key aspects of the planet
- linked large ideas across whole questions
- applied and extended their Earth and Space knowledge from levels 2 and 3 in the context of the question to enrich their answers rather than forcing any recalled concepts into the question
- applied the nature of science to emphasise the importance of research on undersea volcanoes and why they merit further study
- consistently answered each point present in the questions and the resource in an integrated manner
- wrote in a clear, logical progression without significant errors.

Candidates who were awarded **Scholarship** commonly:

- read the resource carefully and noted key words and points, for example, glacial periods and interglacial periods in Q2
- linked evidence given in the resource to the scale of geological events, showing integration of multiple aspects of the resource and gained understanding of the question in a wider aspect
- wrote clearly and linked answers into a single essay
- elaborated on the resource material with explanation and discussion
- answered all questions to a sufficient depth and most often used the full time of the examination
- wrote answers with minimal errors or key omissions

- showed thorough understanding of the L2 and L3 Earth and Space curriculum as well as thinking beyond the curriculum.

Other candidates

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

- only partially answered some or all of the questions
- wrote answers which showed a lack of understanding of important and significant Earth and Space Science concepts
- produced answers which did not relate to the unique context of the question and the resources provided
- repeated or paraphrased the resources provided without adding significant insight of their own
- wrote answers that exhibited poor literacy skills.

LIVE

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Previous years' reports

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