

Achievement Standard

Subject Reference	Social Studies 1.3		
Title	Demonstrate understanding of decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue		
Level	1	Credits	5
		Assessment	External
Subfield	Social Science Studies		
Domain	Social Studies		
Status	Approved	Status date	27 November 2025
Planned review date	31 December 2029	Date version published	9 December 2025

Purpose Statement

Students are able to demonstrate understanding of decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue.

Achievement Criteria

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Demonstrate understanding of decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Explain decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Examine decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue

Explanatory Notes

- 1Demonstrate understanding of decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue involves:
 - describing decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue
 - describing the intended outcomes of the decisions made in relation to the contemporary social issue
 - including relevant evidence in the description.
- Explain decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue involves:
 - explaining the rationale of the decisions made with reference to the contemporary social issue
 - using evidence to support the explanation.

Examine decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue involves:

- discussing how the decisions relate to each other, with reference to the rationale and the contemporary social issue
- using evidence to develop the explanation.

- 2 A *decision* is a potential solution or resolution to an issue. It may be in the form of a plan, a law or policy change, or an agreement reached in relation to an issue.
- 3 A *contemporary social issue* refers to an issue that is currently affecting various people or places. For the purposes of this standard, a contemporary social issue must consider one or a combination of:
 - the inclusion of diverse identities
 - the impact on people's rights
 - the responsibilities and roles of social organisations
 - the nature of power.
- 4 Refer to the NCEA [glossary](#) for Māori, Pacific, and further subject-specific terms and concepts.
- 5 This achievement standard is derived from the Social Sciences Learning Area at Level 6 of *The New Zealand Curriculum*: Learning Media, Ministry of Education, 2007.

Replacement Information

This achievement standard, AS92048, AS92049, and AS92051 replaced AS91039-AS91043.

Quality Assurance

- 1 Schools and institutions must have been granted consent to assess by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against achievement standards.
- 2 Schools and institutions with consent to assess must engage with the moderation system that applies to those achievement standards.

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference 0233
