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NZQA | Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 2 Geography 2026

91240 Demonstrate geographic understanding of a large natural environment

Credits: Four

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate geographic understanding of a large natural environment.	Demonstrate in-depth geographic understanding of a large natural environment.	Demonstrate comprehensive geographic understanding of a large natural environment.

Check that the National Student Number (NSN) on your admission slip is the same as the number at the top of this page.

You should attempt ALL parts of the question in this booklet.

If you need more room for any answer, use the extra space provided at the back of this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–10 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in the margins (////). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

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INSTRUCTIONS

Name the large natural environment you have studied this year:

Refer to this environment when answering both parts of the question. Integrate case study evidence, as well as geographic terminology and concepts, into your answer.

A large natural environment means a distinctive part of the Earth's surface defined by its common natural characteristics (e.g. mountain, desert, forest, river valley) that occurs at a national, regional, or continental scale. The environment can be in New Zealand or overseas.

Natural characteristics (elements) of an environment include landforms (relief), climate, soils, and vegetation.

Geographic concepts you may choose to use in your answer include:

Environments: May be natural and / or cultural. They have particular characteristics and features, which can be the result of natural and / or cultural processes.

Location: Where something is found. Location can be an advantage or a constraint. Location can be described in absolute or relative terms.

Perspectives: Ways of seeing the world that help explain differences in decisions about, responses to, and interactions with, environments. Perspectives are bodies of thought, theories, or world views that shape people's values and have built up over time.

Change: Involves any alteration to the natural or cultural environment. Change can be spatial and / or temporal. Change is a normal process in both natural and cultural environments. It occurs at varying rates, at different times, and in different places.

Interaction: Involves elements of an environment affecting each other and being linked together. Interaction incorporates movement, flows, connections, links, and interrelationships, which work together and may be one- or two-way interactions. Landscapes are the visible outcome of interactions. Interaction can bring about environmental change.

Pattern: May be spatial (the arrangement of features on the Earth's surface) or temporal (how characteristics differ over time in recognisable ways).

Sustainability: Involves adopting ways of thinking and behaving that allow individuals, groups, and societies to meet their needs and aspirations without preventing future generations from meeting theirs. Sustainable interaction with the environment may be achieved by preventing, limiting, minimising, or correcting environmental damage to water, air, and soil, as well as considering ecosystems and problems related to waste, noise, and visual pollution.

Perception and use of the environment
Perceptions are the ways people see, understand, and value an environment. They are influenced by people's experiences, knowledge, and values. Perceptions affect how people use the environment and can change over time as people gain new experiences.

QUESTION

(a) Name one person, or group of people, who have interacted with your large natural environment.

Person or group: _____

Explain how the person or group interacts with your large natural environment.

In your answer, you should explain:

- the person's or group's perception of the large natural environment
- how they have affected, or affect, the large natural environment
- the outcome of this interaction.

PLANNING

(b) Name one person or group, **different** from your selection in part (a), whose perception of your large natural environment has changed over time.

Person or group: _____

Explain how and why this person's or group's perception of your large natural environment has changed over time.

PLANNING

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