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92049



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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Level 1 Social Studies 2025

92049 Demonstrate understanding of perspectives on a contemporary social issue

Credits: Five

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
Demonstrate understanding of perspectives on a contemporary social issue.	Explain perspectives on a contemporary social issue.	Examine perspectives on a contemporary social issue.

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 task 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 2–7 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.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

Merit

TOTAL 06

Page 1

INSTRUCTIONS

Use a contemporary social issue you have studied to answer the question below. Include **relevant evidence** to support your answers.

TASK

(a) Identify and describe a contemporary social issue.

Contemporary social issue:

B *I* U

In New Zealand, we live under a democratic system of government, where we have the power to deceive what is best for our people and our country. Democracy is said to have originated in Athens, Greece, where men over 21 were allowed to choose who ran the country. It changed overtime with a growth in population and with different events. Eventually more countries took on the system of government and it became more widespread. With wars and conflicts, democracy quickly became the most popular system of government in the world. In New Zealand, there are many events which shaped our society, causing become how it is now. 3 of the most important events include: The Maori representation act (where Maori men were allowed to run in parliament), the electoral act of 1893 (where New Zealand was one of the first countries to allow women to vote), and the MMP voting system adoption of the 1990s, where instead of the FPP (first past the post) voting system, we were allowed to choose between different parties and candidates. To be able to vote in NZ, you must be 18 years of age and above, but nowadays, this factor has created some conflicts and debates in our society as some say that our current voting age is discriminatory to 16 and 17 year olds.

(b) Describe TWO perspectives on the issue and the different responses, in relation to EACH perspective.

Perspective (1):

B *I* U

As a previously stated, there are now debated around the voting age, some saying the voting age is wrong, and some saying there is no need for change. One group who strongly believes that our voting age is discriminatory to 16 and 17 year olds is the movement group 'Make it 16'. Make it 16 is a campaign group which advocates and creates a voice for the younger generation in New Zealand. Their main purpose is to demonstrate to our country how for a democratic society to run, we must be considering the youth of today. The co-director of Make it 16 is Caeden Tipler. Caeden Tipler is apart of the younger generation, and they believe that our voting age needs to be lowered. Tipler holds an egalitarian perspective, which means that they support equality and full equity between every single person. Caeden values democracy, youth participation, equality, and fairness and they demonstrate these values through online media, protests, and the group 'Make it 16'. Caeden Tipler thinks that 16 and 17 year olds voices are just as important as adults, as "16 year olds can drive, pay taxes, get married, and consent, so why can't they vote for what will effect them?". The decisons the government and the rest of New Zealand makes directly effects them through educations, tranспорт ect, and we should be able to have our say, as we're they ones who will grow up in this society.

Response (1):

B I U

Because of Caeden's perspective, beliefs and idea on the issue, Tipler as well as other members of 'Make it 16' appeared in the Supreme Court in 2022, to justify why there needs to be a change. The group shared their beliefs on the issue, and fought on behalf of the youth to attempt to make a change. In return, the Supreme Court ruled in their favour, and came to the conclusion that the current voting age is in fact discriminatory and the voting age should in fact be lowered to 16. Although the court ruled in their favour, they are not able to make any changes, due to the government not agreeing and complying.

Perspective (2):

B I U

One perspective that strongly disagrees with Caeden Tipler and their actions in regards to changing the voting age, is Nicola Willis. Nicola Willis is the finance manager of the National Party and stands for the current voting age of 18 to stay as is and to not be lowered. Nicola holds a conservative perspective, and values tradition, law and order, and economy. Willis believes that there is no reason for the voting age to be lowered, as "18 is widely considered the age of adulthood". She believes that the 16 and 17 year olds may not have the correct education in regards to voting and if they do vote, they may be pressured by teachers and parents. She believes that there has been no previous issue with it before, "so why should we change it now?". Willis finds that if we do in fact lower the voting age, the older generation's voice may be overshadowed, and their needs may not be met. She believes that it will cause an intergenerational conflict between the youth and the elders, where they may both fight to be heard.

Response (2):

B I U

In response to her perspective, in the September of 2022, she appeared on the RNZ radio station, in order to globalize her own and the National Parties' point of view. She said that the government has bigger issues that need more attention and must be focussed on sooner than changing the voting age. She stated that the National Party will be making no change. Nicola's appearance on the RNZ radio station was an efficient way to share what she feels toward the situation, and as a result of this, 88% of New Zealanders agreed with her perspective, that the voting age should stay as it is.

(c) How has EACH perspective influenced people's viewpoints and responses, in relation to the issue?

B I U

Caeden Tipler's perspective, as well as the actions taken in response to it, meant that the Supreme court and the Green Party stood behind them and 'make it 16' which means that more people were learning about the issue and were introduced to new points. They had more supporters, and if they continue to protest and created movements, their campaign could become stronger, which could mean that the voting age could be lowered to 16 in the future. Nicola Willis's and the National Party's perspective on the voting age, was publically shared, and this could encourage or discourage people to either support them and their beliefs, or not support them. An example of how her appearance made an influence in people's viewpoints, is that 88% of New Zealanders agreed with her. The debate being talked about and learnt in schools is a way of the youth becoming aware and more involved with politics.

(d) What are the short-term or long-term impacts on individuals or groups, and the wider implications for society, of the responses you have described?

B I U

The short term impacts that Caeden Tipler's movement had is more support from other people who may have not previously been aware of the issue which in turn, could make the 'Make it 16' movement more powerful. An example of this is when the Supreme court ruled in their favour. Further implications for society, if the voting age was lowered could be more voices heard, a more equal social environment, and a better democratic society. The way democracy is in New Zealand could also change, with a shift in governmental priorities. The impact that Nicola Willis had when she appeared on the RNZ radio station was that New Zealanders could have a better understanding of who they did or could vote for, as it showed where their priorities lie. The implications of the voting age not being lowered, is that the government may focus on the older generation and different issues instead of focussing on the youth, as those voices are not heard. As long as the National Party is in rule, the government may stay more traditional and continue to put other priorities first.

Merit

Subject: Social Studies

Standard: 92049

Total score: 06

Grade score	Marker commentary
M6	<p>The candidate explained a contemporary social issue and how differing perspectives have influenced people's viewpoints and responses, in relation to the social issue. They have also explained the short-term and/or long-term impacts of those responses.</p> <p>The candidate confused the implications of the social issue (youth voting age) with the implications of their chosen responses to the issue (the Supreme Court case and Willis' RNZ interview). This limited their ability to gain a higher grade.</p>