

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2011 Assessment Report

Geography Level 1

- 91007 Demonstrate geographic understanding of environments that have been shaped by extreme natural events(s)**
- 91008 Demonstrate geographic understanding of population concepts**
- 91010 Apply concepts and basic geographic skills to demonstrate understanding of a given environment**

COMMENTARY

With the introduction of Grade Score Marking, candidates should attempt all questions to ensure that sufficient evidence is provided to meet the standard. Failure to attempt or complete part of a question limited candidates' opportunity to achieve.

Candidates need to carefully read the question so that their response specifically answers all aspects of what is being asked, rather than writing rote-learned answers. The use of annotated diagrams and integrating geographic concepts added depth to a written response and resulted in answers of higher quality.

STANDARD REPORTS

91007 Demonstrate geographic understanding of environments that have been shaped by extreme natural events(s)

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- correctly followed the instruction verb e.g. explain, label
- drew diagrams that had some evidence but were not detailed
- referred to their named case study only briefly
- answered only one or two questions well or only part A or B of a question.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- attempted only one or two questions, or only part A or B of a question
- used rote-learned responses that did not directly answer the question
- drew diagrams that were generic and/or inappropriate for the actual question
- included no case study evidence in their response.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- referred to specific case study evidence to support their response
- supported their response with diagrams
- used diagrams to explain the answer by incorporating some detailed case study specific evidence
- provided responses that covered aspects which correctly answered the question.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- used geographically accurate diagrams that included labelling and detail to support their written response
- annotated diagrams with several case study-specific references
- provided specific information from more than one case study throughout the paper
- incorporated Geographic Concepts and accurate supporting evidence.

OTHER COMMENTS

Case study evidence is essential in 91007. Candidates with up-to-date case study evidence for more than one case study generally demonstrated a greater depth and breadth of knowledge. A range of case study evidence also ensured that candidates were able to transfer skills, geographic concepts, and information to different contexts.

Successful candidates combined a range of skills (e.g. paragraph writing, annotated diagrams, applied models) to fully explain aspects of how extreme natural event(s) shape natural and cultural environments, and used geographic terminology and concepts to show insight and integrate detailed supporting evidence.

91008 Demonstrate geographic understanding of population concepts

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- used the resources provided
- showed a limited understanding of the concept of sustainability and how countries could contribute to population sustainability
- gave limited explanations with very broad generalisations
- constructed a simple model of the selected migration type, lacking in specific details OR had examples that didn't relate to their named migration type
- attempted only parts of the question
- used out-of-date statistics.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- drew diagrams or maps that lacked accuracy and evidence
- did not answer all questions
- did not recognise countries on the world map
- misunderstood question instructions and were unable to follow the directions in the question
- did not know what population characteristics were for their region or country
- used regions that were too large for their answers so they were unable to accurately write about population location or characteristics e.g. Africa or Monsoon Asia

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- interpreted resource questions accurately
- drew a clear map(s) and/or diagram(s)
- provided accurate supporting evidence.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- interpreted all resources and answered all questions accurately
- integrated specific information and details throughout their fully written and explained answers
- drew accurate and well annotated maps/diagrams to show where the population is located or to explain a migration type.

OTHER COMMENTS

Candidates need to be familiar with up-to-date statistics and trends in studying population concepts at global, national, or regional level. Selected study regions should be manageable in size so that candidates are accurate in their writing with regard to population distribution and characteristics.

91010 Apply concepts and basic geographic skills to demonstrate understanding of a given environment

ACHIEVEMENT

Candidates who were awarded Achievement for this standard demonstrated the required skills and knowledge. They typically:

- showed understanding of geographic skills and concepts at a basic level
- wrote simple geographic statements with some supporting evidence
- attempted all or most questions.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were assessed as Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They typically:

- showed a lack of accuracy and/or lack of care throughout their answers
- misinterpreted key words/instructional words.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Merit typically:

- used evidence from resources in their answers
- demonstrated knowledge of geographic concept and incorporated this into their answer

- demonstrated accuracy in measurement, location, statistical interpretation, and construction of the required graph
- understood more complex terminology.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH EXCELLENCE

In addition to the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement with Merit, candidates who were awarded Achievement with Excellence typically:

- used extensive supporting evidence from all resources to support their answers and incorporated geographic terminology
- demonstrated a high level of accuracy across all three questions.

OTHER COMMENTS

Many candidates did not attempt every question and, therefore, disadvantaged themselves from the start. It was disappointing to note the overall poor level of accuracy demonstrated in the precis map. A high degree of accuracy is required in this standard.

Most candidates were able to write a basic description of New Zealand's location, and many did this with detail.

Most candidates who attempted the graph scored something; the most common error was in not having an even scale on both or one axis.

Candidates who understood the concept of change easily gained maximum marks here; however, few gave an answer in sufficient detail for all three aspects. A number of candidates did not attempt this question.