

# **National Certificate of Educational Achievement**

## **2011 Assessment Report**

### **Geography Level 2**

- 90331 Explain a natural landscape**
- 90332 Explain an urban settlement**
- 90333 Explain disparities in development within or between countries**
- 90334 Apply skills and ideas, in a geographic context**

## COMMENTARY

This was the final year for examinations to assess these achievement standards.

The quality of answers provided by the top candidates over all achievement standards was outstanding. These candidates display insight, have the ability to write succinctly and can integrate and incorporate complex geographical ideas.

Candidates often limited their level of achievement by providing only general case study information. Specific, relevant case study information should be an important part of any quality geographic answer. The drawing of relevant annotated diagrams continues to challenge a significant percentage of candidates.

## STANDARD REPORTS

### 90331 Explain a natural landscape

#### ACHIEVEMENT

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

- linked the requirements of the achievement standard to the questions, and targeted their answers accordingly
- provided accurate case study information.

#### 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:**

- provided little or no case study material. Candidates need to be aware of the importance and relevance case study material provides in illustrating ideas being presented
- provided errors of fact
- showed a lack of understanding of what was being asked in the question and provided irrelevant information
- did not attempt the two required questions or complete all parts of the question.

#### ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- were familiar with their case study and provided specific and highly detailed information, possibly from field trips
- were able to answer either in depth or breadth and included specific case study material
- were able to write clear answers that covered all aspects of the question asked. They were, for example, able to link actions with the impacts on the natural landscape in the perspectives 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:**

- wrote confidently, demonstrating a depth of geographic understanding
- integrated in-depth case study information throughout their answers
- provided detailed and relevant annotated diagrams that elaborated their answers
- integrated geographic terminology and ideas throughout their answers.

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

This standard requires candidates to answer one question on their selected large New Zealand environment and one question on a continental landscape. Both settings hold equal value, and candidates should have spent equal time on each setting. A significant percentage of candidates produced one answer that was outstanding and one answer that lacked breadth or depth.

## **90332 Explain an urban settlement**

### **ACHIEVEMENT**

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

- used simple, concise statements
- provided basic supporting case study evidence
- completed questions displaying an understanding of the terminology required.

### **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:**

- utilised the wrong setting for the question
- did not attempt all parts of the question or did not give reasons to support their answers
- misunderstood key words like significant, influence, similarities, differences, continental, or global
- did not support answers with case study material.

### **ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT**

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

- provided supporting detailed case study data for all sections of the answer
- provided answers that displayed either breadth or depth
- completed both sections of the paper and all parts of questions asked.

## **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:**

- utilised geographic ideas and terms throughout their answer
- interpreted questions correctly to develop logical and detailed responses
- produced maps and diagrams with detailed annotations.

### **90333 Explain disparities in development either within or between countries**

#### **ACHIEVEMENT**

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

- selected case study settings that provided sufficient diversity to allow them to explain measurable disparities in development
- referred to relevant case study information.

#### **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:**

- provided little or no relevant case study information, or selected a case study that did not provide sufficient variation in levels of development either within or between countries
- showed little understanding of the terms within the achievement standard, such as the difference between objective and subjective indicators
- described rather than explained disparities in development and failed to make connections between factors and disparities
- referred to New Zealand in their answers rather than discussing overseas countries, as is a requirement of this achievement standard.

#### **ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT**

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

- explained in depth or breadth the concept of disparities
- made effective use of case study information to illustrate the connections between natural and/or cultural factors and disparities
- incorporated facts and detail into their answer.

#### **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:**

- displayed a clear and detailed understanding of the concept of disparities
- used detailed case study material throughout their answers to illustrate the connections they were explaining

- wrote in a clear succinct manner, integrating geographic ideas and terms throughout their answers.

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

Candidates who were unable to discuss an actual measurable disparity in development levels could not fulfil the requirements of this achievement standard.

## **90334 Apply skills and ideas in a geographic context**

### **ACHIEVEMENT**

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

- implicitly applied geographic ideas to the resource material
- drew climate graphs including basic conventions
- understood basic geographic terms such as relief, range, and region.

### **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:**

- had little understanding of the requirements of climate graphs
- made careless errors
- repeated rather than applied resource material.

### **ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT**

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

- displayed a range of geographic skills
- accurately located features on a précis map
- completed a climate graph
- explicitly applied geographic ideas using appropriate 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:**

- followed conventions for drawing climate graphs, particularly in relation to the requirements of temperature
- provided detailed answers by using relevant resource material.

## **OTHER COMMENTS**

Climate graphs are often used in any geographical study as they can provide detailed information about a selected environment. A significant percentage of candidates did not reproduce a correctly constructed climate graph. Similarly, a high degree of accuracy is required at this level when answering précis map questions.