

New Zealand Qualifications Framework Levels 1 – 3, 2011

Education for Sustainability

National Moderator's Report

National Moderator’s Report for Education for Sustainability

General Guidance for Assessors

The purpose of external moderation is to provide reassurance that teacher judgements are at the national standard and are made on the basis of assessment materials that are fair and valid. All assessment materials are expected to:

- give the student the opportunity to meet the requirements of the standard
- include an assessment schedule that gives evidence of appropriate student responses and clear judgements at all levels.

To help to ensure best assessment practice teachers need to access the Subject Specific Resources for Education for Sustainability on the NZQA website:

www.nzqa.govt.nz/sustainability

The resources on this webpage include:

1. annotated student exemplars
2. clarification of issues with the standards
3. newsletters - current and archived editions
4. previous national moderator reports
5. a link to the TKI resources

General Comments

Students demonstrated a clearer understanding of the concepts underpinning a sustainable future in the Senior Secondary Guidelines : <http://seniorsecondary.tki.org.nz/Social-sciences/Education-for-sustainability>

Excellence level requires evidence to support their statements.

90810

A well-developed concept of a sustainable future should be informing decisions on the action to be taken. Conferencing with students and helping them to focus on one successful task is useful.

It is helpful if students aiming for Merit and Excellence formulate their criteria on the long term effect of their action before they start. The evaluation should focus on the impacts for a sustainable future of the action taken, not on the action plan.

90813

This standard requires values to be defined and it should be noted that a behaviour is not a value. (See 2010 report). The standard requires students to describe values held by different people or groups and link these to their behaviour, not just describing values in general.

90815

A strategy is more than a statement of intent – it requires some details with a possible time frame. Evidence of each student's work and their contribution to the group activities is required.

90829

This standard requires students to use evidence or data to make a decision on an action to take. Analysis of their actions needs to be based on suitable criteria that relate to the long-term implications of their action.

90830

The biophysical environment needs to be described in some detail – aspects of science such as species details or geological foundations need to be at level 3 standard.

The standard requires descriptions of inter-relationships which are two way.

The National Moderator reports will be replaced by newsletters and clarifications documents from 2012.