

New Zealand Qualifications Framework Levels 1 – 3, 2011

History

National Moderator's Report

National Assessment Moderator’s Report for History

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 History](#) on the NZQA website.

The resources on this webpage include:

1. Annotated student exemplars
2. Clarification of issues with the standards
3. Moderator newsletters - current and archived editions
4. Previous national moderator reports
5. A link to the TKI assessment resources.

General Comments

Points of clarification concerning the level one aligned standards have been made in National Assessment Moderator [newsletters](#) during 2011. Comments there have addressed such matters as the benefits of making holistic judgements, expectations for annotations, the extent to which Explanatory Notes are mandatory requirements and whether ‘step-ups’ are expected at the three performance levels for skills identified in the Explanatory Notes.

The [clarification documents](#) for all of the History achievement standards which contain comments affecting the interpretation and use of all pre-alignment internally-assessed achievement standards are available and clarifications for the aligned Standards will begin to appear during 2012, beginning with level one NCEA.

Standard-specific comments

Research Achievement Standards – AS 91001, AS 90465, AS 90654:

These standards require detail of planning evidence and in evaluations, generalisations need to be explained in depth and supported whenever possible by specific examples. Reference to annotated [exemplars of student evidence](#) that demonstrate the national standard are likely to be of benefit to both students and teachers.

In some cases it should be considered whether the space allowed on answer templates supplied for student responses may be restricting their opportunity to provide evidence that is at Excellence standard.

When looking for evidence for 90654 at Excellence level, some reference should be made in evaluations to show how initiative was used in the research process.

Appropriate guidance to students when they are formulating research focusing questions is allowable – and advisable. Students whose questions are too numerous, closed or broad can restrict opportunity to achieve the standard.

Communication of historical understanding – AS 91002, AS 90466, AS 90655:

Achievement standards 90466 and 90655 require the ability to communicate understanding through key historical ideas with supporting evidence. Teachers may still wish to refer some students to support material concerning key [historical ideas](#) and how to avoid the use of narrative. Achievement standard 91002 no longer states the need for communication through key historical ideas with evidence.

Because of the requirement of 91002 for students to relate their context to significance to New Zealanders, teachers may wish to consider contexts selected for study in terms of the ease with which the link may be made by students. Some contexts are undoubtedly more straightforward than others, though in both the marking and the moderating process the degree of difficulty can be taken into consideration.

The judgement made for 91002 should not include consideration of the quality of format and/or style as this is not required by the standard.

Examining perspectives and responses – 91004, 90468:

This standard requires the ability to understand both perspectives and responses and also the historical context. If students over-play the role play aspect and start to provide what is really historical fiction it is likely that they are not providing evidence that is at the national standard.

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