

New Zealand Qualifications Framework Levels 1 – 3, 2011

Psychology

National Moderator's Report

National Moderator's Report for Psychology

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 Psychology on the NZQA website: www.nzqa.govt.nz/Psychology

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

Moderator disagreements with assessment judgements were minor and centered around the following:

- The identification or listing of features when the determination of distinctive features or a description is required e.g.
in 19266 PC 1.2, accepting the naming of Piagetian stages of development (object permanence) without requiring a description (the development of schemata), and in 19265 PC 2.2, students should explain and not just indicate the contribution of a study(s) contribution to psychological knowledge.
- Being alert to numerical or qualitative details contained in the special notes and the range statements of elements and performance criteria e.g.
in 19267 PC 1.2, the range requires an example for each of the three aspects, and in 11685 PC 3.1, the range contains eight items and evidence is required for all eight.

Explicit operational descriptions or examples of student responses should be given in assessment schedule evidence statements. This is specifically important in determining achieved, merit and excellence grade boundaries.

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