

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2012 Assessment Report

Geography Level 2

- 91240 Demonstrate geographic understanding of a large natural environment**
- 91242 Demonstrate geographic understanding of differences in development**
- 91243 Apply geographic concepts and skills to demonstrate geographic understanding of a given environment**

COMMENTARY

This was the first year of Grade Score Marking at Level 2. Candidates who answered all questions, and spent equal time on each question, gave themselves the best opportunity to achieve.

Candidates who performed well wrote clear and concise answers that provided specific case study evidence within the space provided. The lines given are an indication of the length of answer expected.

Candidates should be aware that to gain Excellence they need to demonstrate "comprehensive understanding" which means they must use geographic terminology and concepts, and show insight in their responses, as well as integrating detailed case study evidence throughout their responses.

STANDARD REPORTS

91240 Demonstrate geographic understanding of a large natural environment

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- provided limited but relevant case study evidence
- addressed the question(s) asked
- showed some geographic understanding
- attempted all 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:

- provided vague answers that showed a lack of understanding of the chosen environment
- provided little relevant case study evidence
- provided diagrams that lacked annotations or any understanding
- failed to address the question asked or did not attempt either all parts of a question or all questions.

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 answers that displayed detailed understanding of a question(s)
- provided detailed case study evidence
- produced relevant annotated diagrams.

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:

- incorporated geographic concepts and terminology into answers
- wrote succinctly, integrating detailed specific case study evidence
- included detailed annotations on diagrams
- answered all sections of questions in depth.

OTHER COMMENTS

A high percentage of candidates attempted the paper. Some candidates spent significantly longer on particular question(s) and did not complete other questions.

Relevant diagrams are integral to a geographic answer. “Annotations” require detailed responses in order to gain higher grades.

91242 Demonstrate geographic understanding of differences in development

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- understood the limitations and use of named indicators
- understood how factors lead to differences in development
- supported their answers with case study evidence
- selected appropriate organisations and understood actions/strategies to solve development issues in their case study area.

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:

- demonstrated limited understanding of named indicators
- did not understand the key words of questions
- were not able to select and explain appropriate strategies and outcomes
- included little case study evidence.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- understood both named indicators and were able to link them to specific data
- explained in detail the contribution of a factor to differences in development
- provided responses that answered the questions using specific supporting evidence, either from their own studies or from the information provided.

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:

- compared the chosen indicators to other indicators of development
- understood how the selected factors contributed to the differences in development in their study areas
- understood how development can be influenced by organisations
- made reference to actual work being done by organisations in their case study areas
- integrated case study evidence throughout their answers.

OTHER COMMENTS

Candidates who read the questions, used the key words, and took the time to plan an answer gained higher grades.

Candidates who used very different case study areas scored higher grades. Those who used many different factors to explain the differences in case study areas did not score well, as the explanations lacked detail and supporting evidence.

91243 Apply geographic concepts and skills to demonstrate geographic understanding of a given environment

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- located features on a précis map but lacked accuracy
- displayed basic mapping skills such as using a key, scale and compass direction
- interpreted graph information
- included some basic reference to the resources when applying a geographic concept.

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 difficulty applying basic geographic skills such as scale, grid references, photo interpretation etc.
- did not refer to the resource material when required to do so
- used inappropriate scale/size to show features on a précis map
- did not include sufficient conventions when drawing a graph.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- located features on a précis map with accuracy, using appropriate techniques such as sectioning the map
- used specific information from the resources to support written answers

- plotted a graph with accuracy
- applied geographic concepts in detailed explanations.

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:

- focused responses on the intent of the questions (e.g. the link between location and layout)
- included detailed conventions when drawing a graph
- used specific information from the resources throughout their answers
- included geographic terminology when applying concepts such as location, characteristics and change
- were thorough in their responses by including depth and a variety of resource material.

OTHER COMMENTS

A high degree of accuracy in presentation and/or interpretation of information is required for Achievement with Merit. Achievement with Excellence is determined by the candidates' ability to show a thorough understanding of geographic concepts.

Use of geographic terminology, detailed reference to information from the resource booklet, and demonstration of insight are all required for Achievement with Excellence.