

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2013 Assessment Report

Geography Level 2

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

COMMENTARY

Candidates who were most successful were able to identify the key aspect of each question and write responses that were focused and included full explanations. The inclusion of detailed case study evidence, coupled with explicit use of geography concepts and terminology was an integral factor that enabled candidates to show insight in their responses.

Candidates were more adept at writing concise responses using the spaces provided. The lines given are an indication of the length of answer expected.

Candidates should be encouraged to spend time unpacking the question as rote learned answers often did not demonstrate the level of understanding required. It was also noted that candidates who do not answer all questions were at a disadvantage with Grade Score Marking. It is recommended that candidates attempt all questions.

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 some relevant case study evidence
- explained and applied geographic concepts within their selected large natural environment
- drew simple annotated diagrams to illustrate change over time
- showed an understanding of interactions within their large natural environment and therefore were able to make simple links.

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 relevant case study evidence
- showed little understanding of geographic concepts (e.g. change or interaction)
- provided responses that did not address the question
- provided basic descriptions, rather than explanations
- showed a narrow understanding when drawing diagrams to explain how their large natural environment was formed and changed over time.

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 detailed case study information
- showed a detailed understanding of geographic concepts such as change and interaction

- made links between different factors when explaining interactions within their large natural environment
- used relevant geographic terminology
- provided relevant diagrams to support their written responses.

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:

- integrated geographic concepts throughout their answer
- integrated geographic terminology throughout their answer
- showed insight and provided answers with great depth
- provided detailed and relevant case study material that explained and displayed geographic understanding appropriately
- provided detailed, relevant and accurate annotated diagrams.

OTHER COMMENTS

Candidates who successfully achieved higher grades were able to respond effectively using the provided spaces for this examination. Succinct answers in the variety of forms required by the questions were a feature of this examination.

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 key words in the questions
- selected and applied appropriate case study evidence
- attempted all questions
- explained development levels in communities, areas or countries
- displayed a sound understanding of development causes and could link these to specific outcomes with statistics.

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 rote-learned responses that did not address the question
- provided incorrect generalisations
- used statistics that were out-dated or not current.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- included appropriate specific evidence throughout the answer
- displayed an understanding of the principles of development

- used statistics that are current
- provided responses that focused on differences in development within country, rather than between countries.

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:

- read and analysed the question before beginning a response
- wrote succinctly and with a logical progression of ideas
- integrated case study evidence and geographic terminology throughout their responses
- integrated geographic concepts throughout their answer
- showed holistic understanding of the issues surrounding development in an area
- understood that development is caused by natural or cultural factors that lead to outcomes that are measured by indicators.

OTHER COMMENTS

Many candidates did not read Question One carefully and focused on the resources as opposed to referring to the indicators. Those candidates who focused on different countries often over-generalised and did not score well. Those that selected development within countries showed a better understanding of the standard. Candidates must read the questions carefully and ensure they understand the intent of the question before beginning their response. The use of new case studies from around the world was evident and is refreshing for the study of development. Those candidates who effectively used geographic concepts were better able to show insight within their responses.

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

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- used geographic conventions in the presentation and/or interpretation of information
- incorporated geographic concepts in their answers
- provided only limited information from the resource material to support of their answers.

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:

- did not apply appropriate geographic conventions such as not using units when referring to values, not locating features on the map using appropriate size, shape and location, etc.
- provided responses that did not address the question or did not show an understanding of geographic concepts in their answer
- 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:

- showed accuracy in the presentation and/or interpretation of information such as in the location, size and shape of features on the map, and often used sectioning of the map to assist them in gaining better accuracy
- referred to geographic concepts explicitly
- used specific information from the resource material to support 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:

- integrated geographic concepts throughout their responses when given the opportunity
- used relevant geographic terminology in their answer such as when describing a pattern (e.g. linear, and radial)
- supported responses with a wide range of specific information from the resource material
- showed insight in their response such as considering the reasons or implications and relating them to their answer.

OTHER COMMENTS

The examination provided candidates with plenty of opportunity to apply a range of skills to gather information on the given environment, and then use this by applying geographic concepts to demonstrate their understanding of it.

Candidates demonstrated good understanding of the geographic concepts. In Question 3 many candidates were able to make detailed recommendations supporting their choice of option for the location of the airport development and incorporated the use of geographic concepts and terminology in their responses.

To achieve Excellence in this standard candidates need to ensure that they successfully apply skills using accuracy in the presentation and/or interpretation of information, and also show a thorough understanding of geographic concepts using geographic terminology and with insight.