

National Certificate of Educational Achievement

2014 Assessment Report

Education for Sustainability Level 3

- 90830 Compare and contrast initiatives in relation to a sustainable future**

- 90831 Analyse the impact that policies have on a sustainable future**

STANDARD REPORTS

90830 Compare and contrast initiatives in relation to a sustainable future

COMMENTARY

Most portfolios were word processed, which aided marking. Often a lot of research material was included. There were frequent instances of material copied from web sites included in the report, and this material was weakly acknowledged, if at all. The portfolio guidelines for the revised standard should address much of this issue.

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- showed understanding the aspects of sustainability
- described both initiatives and the sustainability issue that was being addressed
- understood how the initiatives would contribute to a sustainable future.

NOT ACHIEVED

Candidates who were awarded Not Achieved for this standard lacked some or all of the skills and knowledge required for the award of Achievement. They commonly:

- showed little understanding of the aspects of sustainability
- showed little understanding of the concept of a sustainable future resulting from practices that did not compromise future generations
- often focussed upon the sustainability of the issue.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- understood aspects of sustainability
- explained the issue that the initiative addressed
- demonstrated how the initiative could contribute to a sustainable future,
- made plain the differences between the two initiatives with respect to a sustainable future
- often used initiatives with a common focus.

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 commonly:

- established a (limited) selection of criteria relevant to the issue
- referred to research evidence specific to the issue and a sustainable future
- objectively evaluated against the criteria using the evidence.

OTHER COMMENTS

Candidates who chose widely disparate initiatives did not do well, as it was too hard to compare convincingly the initiatives and the contributions of the initiatives to a sustainable future e.g. an initiative that addresses biodiversity loss paired with another that addresses equal distribution of resources.

Candidates felt that they had to link the initiatives to all four aspects of sustainability and often the links made were laboured, forced and spurious.

90831 Analyse the impact that policies have on a sustainable future

COMMENTARY

Most portfolios were word processed, which aided marking, but often a large quantity of research material was included. There were frequent instances of material copied from web sites included in the report and this material was weakly acknowledged, if at all. The portfolio guidelines for the revised standard should address much of this issue.

ACHIEVEMENT

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

- identified and understood the issue that the policy addressed
- described the role of the issue (and other influences) in the development of the policy
- related the policy to relevant aspects of sustainability
- identified how implementing the policy would contribute to a sustainable future.

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 commonly:

- showed little understanding of the issue that the policy addressed
- did not show how implementing the policy would contribute to a sustainable future.

ACHIEVEMENT WITH MERIT

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

- explained the factors that influenced the development of a policy
- included a clear explanation of the issue that the policy was intended to address
- explained how the implementation of the policy would contribute to a sustainable future.

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 commonly:

- established relevant criteria against which to judge the contribution of a policy to a sustainable future
- applied the criteria to evidence related to the policy and issue.

OTHER COMMENTS

The policies chosen need to be reasonably well-established ones. Candidates who chose a recently implemented policy were often lacking facts on the practices and their implementation.

Candidates who chose policies that addressed the same sustainability issues were advantaged as their discussion linked much more naturally.