

Assessment Report

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Standards [91290](#) [91294](#) [91297](#)

Part A: Commentary

Across all three standards, many candidates responded well. Those who came prepared with a range of land uses and commercial plant or animal techniques showed in-depth understanding and obtained higher grades.

Candidates are responding well to the changes in AS91294 and are choosing a range of animal species when referring to specific examples in the questions that were presented in the examinations.

Part B: Report on standards

91290: Demonstrate understanding of techniques used to modify physical factors of the environment for NZ plant production

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- described how management practices are used in market gardens to manage soil erosion
- described how management practices are used in outdoor plant production to manage temperature
- showed understanding of how hail netting modifies the environment..

Candidates whose work was assessed as **Not Achieved** commonly:

- did not describe how a management practice is used in market gardens to manage soil erosion
- lacked understanding of how temperature is managed in outdoor plant production
- discussed indoor plant production management practices rather than outdoor plant production as was required in the question
- were unable to describe how hail netting modified the environment..

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- explained how one or two management practices are used in market gardens to manage soil erosion
- showed in-depth understanding of how temperature is managed in outdoor plant production
- showed clear understanding of how hail netting improves the yield and / or quality of selected crops.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- justified the use of a management practice used in market gardens to manage soil erosion and its impact on economic and environmental factors in relation to timing and quality
- justified how temperature is managed in terms of economics for outdoor plant production
- justified the use of hail netting in relation to economic and social impact / factors.

Standard specific comments

Candidates who did well in this standard had an in-depth knowledge of a range of commercial horticultural systems from around New Zealand.

91294: Demonstrate understanding of how NZ commercial management practices influence livestock growth and development

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- described how and why management practices are carried out to increase survival and growth in unfavourable conditions
- described a feed management practice for one or two different stages of development
- discussed breeding management practices such as artificial insemination but did not link it to quality, quantity of offspring or timing.

Candidates whose work was assessed as **Not Achieved** commonly:

- only partially described management practices without saying how or why it is carried out
- confused feeding, breeding and environmental management practices
- used the same livestock species for two or more questions
- did not relate stages of development to the associated management practice
- compared free range farming versus barn or caged farming rather than discussing management practices used in unfavourable conditions
- failed to relate management practices to survival or growth in unfavourable conditions.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- explained the management practices and how they were carried out during unfavourable environmental conditions to improve the survival and growth of stock

- showed in-depth understanding of breeding management practices in relation to quantity and / or quality of offspring
- explained feeding management practices that affect growth at TWO stages of development.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- justified a management practice in terms of quality and economic of production
- justified the use of breeding management practices in relation to timing and economics of production
- carefully selected a feed management practice that allowed them to justify the practice in relation to quality and economics of production.

Standard specific comments

Traditionally candidates have had the opportunity to discuss livestock and their offspring. With the broadening of the scope in terms of livestock, candidates can discuss production as well as the offspring of their selected livestock species.

91297: Demonstrate understanding of land use for primary production in New Zealand

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- explained how factor/s impact on a given region for a selected farm type, both in the past and present
- provided some depth rather than basic descriptions.

Candidates whose work was assessed as **Not Achieved** commonly:

- gave insufficient or incorrect reasoning as to how factor/s impact on a given region for a selected farm type.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Merit** commonly:

- gave detailed explanations as to how one or two factors impact on a given region for a selected farm type both now and in the future.

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement with Excellence** commonly:

- gave comprehensive reasoning on how factors influence a regions suitability to continue commercially with a selected farm type
- compared both future and current land use.

Standard specific comments

Candidates took a balanced view in examining the positive and negative effects of land uses.

It is important for candidates to have an awareness / understanding of the policies and interventions of councils (local government) and national government.

Another important learning opportunity is for candidates to be aware of the benefits and constraints of the different modern technologies in agriculture and horticulture.

[Agricultural and Horticultural Science subject page](#)

Previous years' reports

[2019 \(PDF, 221KB\)](#)

[2018 \(PDF, 96KB\)](#)

[2017 \(PDF, 45KB\)](#)

[2016 \(PDF, 219KB\)](#)