

Subject: Social Studies

Level: 2

Standards: 91279, 91281

Part A: Commentary

Overall, candidates performed well in the examination. Many candidates gave thorough responses to the questions. Candidates who performed particularly well demonstrated the ability to use specific evidence in a meaningful way throughout their responses and avoided giving general narratives about the cultural conflict(s). Some candidates focused on describing social issues rather than demonstrating their understanding of cultural conflict, which made it difficult to meet the requirements of the standard(s).

Part B: Report on standards

91279: Demonstrate understanding of conflict(s) arising from different cultural beliefs and ideas

Examination

This assessment task required candidates to respond using the resources provided. Most candidates used the resource booklet well and there was an improvement in the consistent use of specific evidence throughout responses. Some candidates did not accurately match perspectives to the people/groups involved in the conflict.

Observations

Candidates responded well to the resources provided and most showed that they understood key aspects of the cultural conflict. However, some responses focused too strongly on describing the issues around space tourism, giving a narrative of what was provided in the resource booklet, rather than discussing the cultural conflict and answering the key parts of the task.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- used the resources provided to describe the nature/cause of the conflict
- provided accurate descriptions of the points of view, values, and perspectives of the people involved, with the perspectives consistent with the values used in the description
- described the social forces without explaining how they contributed to the conflict.

Candidates who were awarded **Not Achieved** commonly:

- described the nature of the conflict and quoted people involved but did not include accurate values and/or perspectives in their responses
- summarised the information given in the resources without directly answering the task
- did not provide their own analysis but rather copied large portions of text from the resources
- provided their own opinions on the cultural conflict and what should be done to solve it without answering the task.

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

- described the social force and then explained how the social force contributed to the conflict
- demonstrated understanding of how the social forces contributed to the conflict through making statements such as “worsened”, “intensified”, “gained further support for ...”, going beyond the information provided and applying what they had read to the concept of cultural conflict.

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

- stated which social force is most likely to solve the conflict and gave well supported reasons for their chosen social force in a manner that explored the relative effects of both social forces
- chose to demonstrate their understanding through comparing effects of the social forces before they made a judgment on which social force was most likely to solve the conflict.

91281: Describe how cultural conflict(s) can be addressed

Examination

This assessment task required candidates to describe how cultural conflicts can be addressed using suppression, as outlined in the Assessment Specifications. Most candidates were well prepared and demonstrated strong understanding of the contexts they had studied.

Observations

The exam was responded to well by candidates who had a clear understanding of how suppression (military or legislative) could be used to address a conflict. However, some

responses showed candidates had selected to use contexts that did not give the opportunity for them to discuss suppression in a meaningful manner. Additionally, to gain Excellence, candidates were required to choose the type of suppression that best addressed the conflict. Some candidates chose not to answer this part of the task directly and to respond in a manner that they had seemingly pre-prepared.

Topic choice can be important to allow candidates the best opportunity to give strong responses. Some candidates found it difficult to meet the requirements of the standard when discussing a social issue rather than a cultural conflict. There were also some instances where the cultural conflict chosen was historical, which is not in keeping with the nature of Social Studies at this level.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- provided points of view, values, and perspectives that were accurately applied to the conflict discussed
- identified outcomes without sufficient description and supporting evidence
- provided only one clear outcome in their response.

Candidates who were awarded **Not Achieved** commonly:

- provided descriptions of how cultural conflicts can be addressed without including suppression
- identified one or two parts of points of view, values, and perspectives but did not incorporate all three aspects into a description that clearly and accurately related to the people/groups involved.

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

- demonstrated a strong understanding of the conflict and were able to describe outcomes from the use of suppression
- used specific evidence to support their description of the outcomes
- did not give a clear recommendation of the type of suppression that best addressed the cultural conflict.

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

- used evidence and reasoning to recommend the form of suppression most likely to achieve the desired outcomes for society.