

This assessment report is based on assessments for 2023. It may not reflect achievement standards that have been updated.

2023 NCEA Assessment Report

Subject: Social Studies (RAS)

Level: Level 1

Achievement standard(s): 92050, 92051

Achievement standard 92050: Demonstrate understanding of decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue.

Assessment

The examination required candidates to respond to a task, using relevant evidence from the resources provided about decisions made in relation to rising food costs in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Commentary

Overall, candidates provided good quality responses. Candidates should be encouraged to put the resource booklet into their own words and discuss the ideas further, rather than just quoting material directly. Candidates who showed a clear understanding of the content, but did not name an individual explicitly, were limited from gaining Achievement. Candidates who listed the strengths and weaknesses of decisions rather than using them to compare and contrast were unable to access higher grades.

It should be noted that in the 2024 version of this standard:

- “compare and contrast” is no longer a requirement at Merit / Excellence
- in addition to describing / explaining / examining decisions made in relation to a social issue, candidates are also required to describe / discuss / compare ethical considerations.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- described the nature of the contemporary social issue of food insecurity
- identified and described decisions made in relation to food insecurity
- included evidence in their descriptions.

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

- compared and contrasted decisions made in relation to the contemporary social issue of food insecurity
- included evidence in the discussion.

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

- compared and contrasted decisions made in relation to the contemporary social issue of food insecurity
- examined the future implications of decisions made in relation to the contemporary social issue of food insecurity
- included evidence in the examination.

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

- did not demonstrate understanding of the social issue of food insecurity
- did not refer to an individual when discussing decision(s)
- drew on prior knowledge and did not incorporate evidence from the resource booklet.

Achievement standard 92051: Describe a social action undertaken to support or challenge a system

Assessment

The report required candidates to respond to a task, using a social action undertaken to support or challenge a system.

Commentary

Overall, candidates provided good quality responses. Candidates would benefit from developing their understanding of how social issues stem from societal systems, and why effective social action supports or challenges a specific system.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- described a social action undertaken and its aim in relation to a social issue
- described how the social action supported or challenged a system
- provided some evidence of the social action.

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

- explained the appropriateness of their social action in supporting or challenging the system
- provided relevant and annotated evidence relating to the social action.

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

- discussed the appropriateness of their social action in supporting or challenging the system
- evaluated the short- and long-term impacts of the social action in supporting or challenging the system
- integrated specific, relevant, and annotated evidence relating to the social action.

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

- did not describe the social action and / or the social issue in enough detail
- did not describe how the social action supported or challenged a specific system.