

2023 NCEA Assessment Report

Subject:	Psychology
Level:	Level 3
Achievement standard(s):	91876

General commentary

In general, candidates demonstrated the ability to analyse a significant issue in psychological practice, utilising a selected resource as a prompt for their response.

The most frequently discussed issues were gender bias (Resource D or E) and cultural bias (Resource C or E). Some candidates interpreted Resource B as the use of children in psychological research, while others saw it as socially sensitive research. Both interpretations were accepted and evaluated based on the quality of the response.

Candidates who tended to succeed in this standard addressed all three parts of the examination. They identified and described the issue presented in their selected resource, providing a discussion of the issue within the context of psychological practice.

Report on individual achievement standard(s)

Achievement standard 91876: Analyse a significant issue in psychological practice

Assessment

Candidates were required to answer one question with three parts.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- identified and described the significant issue demonstrated in their chosen resource
- described the issue in relation to psychological practice. However, explanations were often general or limited to a few specific details
- defined relevant key terms, e.g. universality, emic, etic, and cultural relativity
- may have included descriptions of supporting psychological evidence (studies, theories) in some detail, but these descriptions lacked sufficient explanation of how the issue was demonstrated.

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

- explained, in detail, several impacts of the significant issue on psychological practice
- provided details of carefully selected supporting psychological evidence (studies, theories) and explained how this evidence demonstrated the issue

- attempted to discuss ways or strategies of addressing the issue, but these lacked detail for Excellence. For instance, only one strategy may have been provided, or several strategies that were too general or lacking detail, e.g. “conduct research on participants from different cultures or countries” without further explanation

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

- explained, in detail, the significant issue and comprehensively applied this understanding to psychological practice
- integrated supporting psychological evidence (studies, theories), providing detailed accounts of the evidence and comprehensive explanations of how this evidence demonstrated the issue. The response may have shown some insight and connection to wider societal contexts, e.g. feminism, LGBTQI+ community, decolonisation
- discussed, in some detail, at least two distinct strategies to address the issue. Strategies were well-considered, fully explained, and usually supported with evidence
- may have considered the limitations and / or consequences of these strategies for psychology and / or society.

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

- did not accurately identify the significant issue demonstrated in their chosen resource or did not refer to their chosen resource at all
 - lacked understanding of the issue
 - did not explain the issue in relation to psychological practice or focused solely on the resource
 - included inaccurate and / or irrelevant information that significantly hindered understanding.
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