

2024 NCEA Assessment Report

Subject:	History
Level:	2
Achievement standard(s):	91231, 91233, 91234

General commentary

The assessments were accessible for all candidates, enabling learners to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding. There was a range of events discussed and candidates wrote succinct and considered responses.

Report on individual achievement standard(s)

Achievement standard 91231: Examine sources of an historical event that is of significance to New Zealanders

Assessment

This examination required candidates to answer three questions, using evidence from the sources provided about the settlement of returned servicemen after World War I.

Commentary

Successful candidates examined the sources provided and answered the questions specifically with some degree of evidence to back up their general statements.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- used evidence from the source material to inform their response
- made some accurate comments on reliability
- relied solely on the source material without drawing conclusions.

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

- utilised several sources to draw conclusions and support their judgements
- understood the usefulness of a source by identifying both the strengths and weaknesses
- addressed all parts of the questions.

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

- made accurate judgements of a source's reliability, with reference to the reliability of other sources
- synthesised information from different sources and offered insights that went beyond the material
- used concise quotes from the sources, or paraphrased the sources in their own words, to support their responses.

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

- wrote responses with very little reference to the source material
- quoted directly from the source but did not answer the question in their own words
- drew on irrelevant or inaccurate evidence to answer the questions.

Achievement standard 91233: Examine causes and consequences of a significant historical event

Assessment

The examination required candidates to answer an essay question, discussing how two different consequences were connected to a significant historical event.

Commentary

The question was accessible for discussing expansive events, such as the Holocaust or Vietnam War, as well as focused events, such as My Lai or Kristallnacht. While a contextual paragraph remains optional, responses with contextual detail were stronger. Higher-level achievement required well-defined and direct connections between events and their consequences, although some events, such as linking the establishment of Israel to Kristallnacht, proved challenging. Overall, responses tended to be more concise.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- attempted to link the consequences to the event
- utilised some supporting evidence but lacked depth
- used an appropriate structure for their response.

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

- explained clearly how the consequences were linked to the event with valid and relevant detail
- evaluated the consequences and explained their significance
- organised evidence in a logical sequence to demonstrate depth of understanding.

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

- utilised language that demonstrated an insightful understanding of the evidence
- presented evidence that included quotes and historiography to further demonstrate the significance of the event and consequences
- explained clearly how the consequences were connected to the event, supported by a comprehensive level of evidence.

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

- discussed only one consequence
- presented causes as consequences
- included evidence that was irrelevant to the event.

Achievement standard 91234: Examine how a significant historical event affected New Zealand society

Assessment

The examination required candidates to answer an essay question, discussing how two effects of a significant historical event influenced New Zealand society.

Commentary

The broader range of historical events that influenced New Zealand society used by candidates was appreciated, with higher grades often linked to less mainstream topics like the Second Wave of Feminism, or the Cold War. However, candidates who used events, such as Jack the Ripper or UK witchcraft legislation, would benefit from studying events with clearer relevance to New Zealand society.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- incorporated some relevant historical evidence but this may have lacked depth or specific detail
- identified and explained two effects of a significant historical event
- used a structured essay format.

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

- distinguished clearly and detailed two different effects
- supported their key ideas with accurate historical evidence
- applied an effective essay structure, writing in a logical or sequential manner.

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

- made thoughtful and perceptive judgements / conclusions, such as evaluating the significance of the effects
- demonstrated insight via perceptive analysis of the effects
- utilised a comprehensive range of specific and valid evidence to support the significance of the event and its effects.

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

- discussed only one effect
- provided a narrative of the event without specifically linking to the effects
- utilised minimal historical evidence.