

2024 NCEA Assessment Report

Subject:	Agricultural and Horticultural Science
Level:	3
Achievement standard(s):	91530, 91531, 91532

General commentary

All three assessments gave candidates the opportunity to answer the questions using their own contexts. This gave the candidates the opportunity to show in-depth understanding of their chosen products. Candidates who did well, selected products that have current and relevant data, which was used as supporting evidence. Candidates who did not do well mostly wrote pre-prepared answers.

Report on individual achievement standard(s)

Achievement standard 91530: Demonstrate understanding of how market forces affect supply of and demand for New Zealand primary products

Assessment

This was a one question paper with three parts. Candidates were expected to demonstrate understanding of how three market forces affect the supply of and / or demand for the chosen product. In Part C, the candidates were expected to discuss how consumer preference had an impact on supply of and demand for their chosen primary product.

Commentary

This assessment provided candidates with an opportunity to apply the contexts that they studied. Candidates who utilised the planning spaces presented responses in a structured manner and could clearly link the market force on the supply / demand of their chosen product. Candidates who incorporated supporting evidence throughout their discussion generally attained a higher grade.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- presented a basic understanding of a market force by defining it and then linking it to their chosen products
- explained how their selected market force impacted the supply of and demand for their chosen products
- presented a response that was not supported by quantitative data.

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

- provided quantitative data to support the supply of and demand for their chosen products into a market in the form of actual quantities to indicate supply and price / value to indicate demand.
- presented a well-structured response that was linked to the question.

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

- used data to support their justification / discussion on what market force had the most significant impact on consumer preference
- made reference to the future supply of, and demand for the product
- provided a well-structured and organised response by linking it back to the question that was being asked.

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

- presented evidence in response that did not indicate any understanding of a market force
- gave generalised responses without any link between the market force and the supply and/or demand of their chosen product.

Achievement standard 91531: Demonstrate understanding of how the production process meets market requirements for a New Zealand primary product.

Assessment

This was a one question paper with three parts. The candidates were required to demonstrate an understanding of the requirements of two chosen markets of a New Zealand primary product. For each market the candidate was required to demonstrate understanding of its market requirement and explain why a management practice is carried out to allow producers to produce products that meet the specific requirements of the markets. In part C, the candidates were required to demonstrate understanding of the most significant management practice for meeting the market requirements and which had the greatest impact on the price received by the producer.

Commentary

This assessment provided candidates with the opportunity to select a product that they had studied and showed an interest in. Candidates who did well in this assessment generally demonstrated a detailed knowledge of the specific market requirements for their chosen primary product as well as the management practices used to enable the product to meet this requirement.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- showed understanding of specific market requirements in two different markets
- linked their understanding of how management practices are carried out to ensure that the desired market requirement is met
- presented evidence with either insufficient or irrelevant quantitative data.

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

- used specific detail and quantitative data when explaining the market requirements
- explained in detail how the market requirement is met through the management practices

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

- provided detail on how their chosen management practice had the most significant impact on meeting the market requirement
- used data to demonstrate how carrying out the management practice results in a higher profit to the producer.
- presented evidence that was well structured.

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

- repeated the same market requirement for their second market.
- explained the market requirement, but did not link it to the management practice
- explained only one market and one market requirement.

Achievement standard 91532: Analyse a New Zealand primary production environmental issue.

Assessment

The assessment consisted of one question, split into three parts. Candidates were able to choose their own primary production system that best allowed them to analyse the environmental issue. Candidates were required to explain how two management practices, when used to intensify production, can have a negative impact on natural ecosystems. They were then asked to identify courses of action that producers could take to mitigate the negative effects of intensification. In the final part, they were asked to justify a course of action that best allowed producers to sustainably produce their product while focussing on social, economic and environmental sustainability considerations.

Commentary

Candidates, who achieved well, could link the management practices used in their production system to intensified land use and the impact these practices had on the ecosystem. Higher grades were awarded to candidates who had specific details relating to the negative impacts of their chosen production system and had specific details on the courses of action that could mitigate the negative impacts.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- explained how at least one management practice had a negative impact on the ecosystem but did not include any supporting evidence
- explained management practices that producers use to intensify production, e.g. fertiliser, spraying etc
- explained at least one course of action that producers use to mitigate the impacts of production on the ecosystem but did not include any supporting evidence.

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

- explained in detail how management practices, used to intensify production, have a negative impact on the ecosystem and provided specific details
- explained how a course of action is used to mitigate the impacts of production on the ecosystem.

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

- discussed which course of action has the greatest impact on protecting the ecosystem
- discussed the social and economic considerations to determine which course of action had the greatest impact on sustainability.

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

- used management practices that did not lead to intensified production but were a result of intensification, e.g. stocking rate or effluent application.
 - described the impact of management practices on the environment in basic detail with no explanation present
 - chose a course of action that was not relevant to the production system or was not explained in any detail.
-