

2025 NCEA Assessment Report

Subject:	Geography
Level:	2
Achievement standard(s):	91240, 91242, 91243

General commentary

Candidates who demonstrated the ability to integrate case study information into their responses commonly achieved at a higher level across all the standards. These candidates also demonstrated strong command of geographic terminology and concepts, which contributed significantly to their overall performance.

Report on individual achievement standard(s)

Achievement standard 91240: Demonstrate geographic understanding of a large natural environment

Commentary

This question provided candidates with the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of a large natural environment. Those who achieved at higher levels commonly included well-constructed diagrams, maps, and other visual material that strengthened and deepened their geographic responses.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- provided some case study information relevant to their response
- wrote descriptive answers that lacked depth
- omitted geographic concepts from their response.

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

- wrote more detailed responses that explained the environment
- demonstrated clearly how processes and elements interacted to produce the characteristic
- provided detailed case study information throughout the response.

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

- produced well-structured responses that were detailed, analytical, and showed insight
- demonstrated a high level of understanding of interactions, including high quality diagrams or sketch maps
- used accurate and appropriate geographic terminology and concepts to construct well-structured responses.

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

- produced a response that did not address the requirements of the question
 - provided responses that were purely descriptive and lacked analytical depth
 - included little or no case-study evidence
 - focused on information that was unrelated to the question or included a significant amount of cultural content not required for the task.
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Achievement standard 91242: Demonstrate geographic understanding of differences in development

Commentary

To demonstrate understanding of developmental variation, the standard requires evidence from two or more case study locations. Candidates who relied on a single location could not meet the criteria for higher-level performance.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- focused on a specific strategy, evidence, and outcomes for only one location
- provided a more generalised second strategy or simply wrote about a factor, indicator, or concept for their second location
- lacked a clear use of geographic case study evidence throughout the response
- wrote more descriptively and lacked detail.

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

- included information about two specific strategies, demonstrating a good understanding of each strategy
- provided detailed case study evidence from two named geographic areas within the responses
- wrote detailed explanations of how strategies improved levels of development and therefore reduced differences between two locations.

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

- clearly identified two case study locations with differing levels of development
- developed their responses with an integrated use of case study evidence
- demonstrated higher level understanding through a comprehensive explanation of how the strategy reduced differences in development between two locations
- explained clear outcomes of the strategies to demonstrate the reduction of the difference in development between locations
- used geographic terminology and concepts effectively to demonstrate insight.

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

- wrote responses unrelated to the question asked
- provided general responses that were not focused on specific locations or outcomes
- constructed a response that focused on gender differences rather than location
- completed descriptive responses that lacked explanation of how the strategies reduced differences in development.

Achievement standard 91243: Apply geography concepts and skills to demonstrate understanding of a given environment

Commentary

Candidates were required to demonstrate understanding of the temporal changes in a given environment. This proved challenging for many candidates, particularly in the précis mapping and timeline construction skills, where significant accuracy errors and missing conventions were evident.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- answered the question in a mainly descriptive manner, with limited depth of explanation
- demonstrated a basic level of competency in mapping skills
- provided brief responses that showed understanding of key concepts but did not link these to specific supporting evidence
- showed some understanding of at least two concepts but were unable to address the question with sufficient detail.

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

- demonstrated accurate skills, including the map and timeline, with a good level of accuracy in locating features and including appropriate titles
- supported written answers with relevant specific statistics or details from the resource booklet
- showed a more detailed understanding of geographic concepts by adding explanation, providing multiple reasons, or addressing the significance of change, location, and environments.

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

- demonstrated a high level of skill across all aspects assessed, ensuring all relevant conventions were included
- used tools (such as rulers) to achieve high accuracy in timelines and to locate, using the correct size and shape, the required features in the précis map
- demonstrated comprehensive understanding and insight, going beyond simply rewriting specific evidence in the resource book, to make strong links between geographic concepts and their interrelationships
- produced well-structured responses with logical paragraphs, insightful topic sentences, and conclusions that directly addressed the question.

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

- did not attempt the entire paper, frequently leaving the final concept question incomplete or unanswered
 - lacked understanding of skills and conventions that led to accuracy errors on the map and timeline
 - provided responses that did not fully address the focus of the question or make effective use of the resource book
 - failed to demonstrate understanding of the environment through their use of geographic skills.
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