

2025 NCEA Assessment Report

Subject:	Social Studies
Level:	2
Achievement standard(s):	91279, 91281

General commentary

Overall, candidates who demonstrated a strong understanding of cultural conflict(s), directly responded to each element of the assessment task, and supported their responses with relevant, specific evidence/examples were most successful. Some candidates did not capitalise on their understanding of conflict, using general narratives rather than delving into the concept of conflict and how it could be addressed.

Report on individual achievement standard(s)

Achievement standard 91279: Demonstrate understanding of conflict(s) arising from different cultural beliefs and ideas

Assessment

The examination required candidates to respond to a task, using specific evidence/examples from the resources provided about the conflict surrounding Australia's 'right to disconnect' legislation.

Commentary

Responses that effectively selected and incorporated evidence from the resources provided without copying large portions of text typically produced strong results. Candidates who achieved at Merit or Excellence levels, focused on the conflict of ideas involved in the legislation rather than the issue of workplace environments.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- identified and described valid Social Studies perspectives, incorporating relevant values and supporting evidence
- stated points of view regarding Australia's 'right to disconnect' law clearly
- gave adequate descriptions of the nature and cause of the conflict.

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

- used key words and phrases from the resources provided to correctly identify social forces
- described two social forces and gave ideas of how the social forces contributed to the conflict
- used specific evidence to support key points.

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

- evaluated the social forces by discussing the effects each social force had on the conflict
- asserted which social force is the most influential in resolving it and supported their assertion with reasons and evidence/examples.

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

- gave brief, simple statements regarding the nature and cause of the conflict rather than a full description
- identified perspectives inaccurately
- did not incorporate relevant values in their description.

Achievement standard 91281: Describe how cultural conflict(s) can be addressed

Assessment

The examination required candidates to respond to a task, using a studied cultural conflict, relevant social studies concepts, and specific evidence. Candidates were specifically asked to consider how local interventions have attempted to address their chosen cultural conflict.

Commentary

The choice of cultural conflict had a considerable bearing on the quality of responses, with some candidates describing social issues or conflicts between individuals/groups rather than cultural conflict, limiting their ability to show conceptual understanding and produce detailed responses. For example, describing a disagreement between individuals on social media without then exploring ideas, such as censorship or freedom of speech. The concept of cultural conflict, and how it is addressed, should form the basis of the response.

Many of the cultural conflicts used are no longer current, some even historical. Candidates would benefit from selecting more contemporary conflicts.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- outlined the focus of the conflict clearly and gave some background to how the conflict evolved
- identified the individuals and groups involved and stated their points of view
- used values and ideologies to fully describe these points of view
- described a local intervention used to address the conflict accurately and supported this description with evidence/examples
- gave possible outcomes with limited evidence, not clearly linked to the conflict or focused on global rather than local interventions.

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

- described two outcomes and supported the outcomes with evidence
- demonstrated understanding of how the outcomes had arisen from a local intervention.

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

- stated clearly which intervention they believed would be the most effective

- compared local and global interventions and their effectiveness in addressing the cultural conflict
- used the comparison to then recommend either local or global intervention in addressing the conflict
- asserted the desired outcomes to society
- supported key ideas with evidence and examples.

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

- did not demonstrate sound understanding of their chosen cultural conflict
- gave points of view without describing the relevant values and perspectives
- gave a general narrative of their conflict without showing conceptual understanding or supporting key ideas with evidence/examples.