

2025 NCEA Assessment Report

Subject:	Social Studies
Level:	3
Achievement standard(s):	91596, 91598

General commentary

Overall, candidates identified/named specific ideologies when describing their issue and the perspectives and ideological responses of two or more individuals or groups to that issue. However, candidates who did not identify a specific ideology or only described the response of one individual or group to the issue, did not demonstrate sufficient understanding to meet the Achievement criteria.

Many candidates identified and briefly discussed groups that had a perspective on an issue/topic, but often did not make the link to a specific ideology in sufficient depth or with sufficient evidence to meet the standard.

Report on individual achievement standard(s)

Achievement standard 91596: Demonstrate understanding of ideological responses to an issue

Assessment

The examination required candidates to respond to a task, using a studied issue, relevant social studies concepts, and specific evidence to evaluate the extent to which ideological responses, shaped by indigenous knowledge, influenced their chosen issue.

Commentary

Candidates should have prepared to discuss how indigenous knowledge *or* globalisation has shaped ideological responses to their chosen issue, as indicated in the Assessment Specifications. Those who focused solely on globalisation were unable to meet the criteria for Achievement because the task required candidates to discuss indigenous knowledge specifically.

Candidates would therefore benefit from selecting issues that allow for meaningful discussion of both of the possibilities listed in the Assessment Specifications.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- provided an overview of their chosen issue
- described at least two perspectives about their chosen issue, though one of the descriptions was sometimes limited
- outlined two different ideological responses and impacts
- described how indigenous knowledge has shaped their chosen issue

- supported their response with evidence, though this was sometimes limited.

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

- outlined how/why ideologies influenced the response to their chosen issue
- outlined the influence of both ideologies on the response taken by individuals/groups
- explained how/why ideologies shaped the response, though one ideology was sometimes limited
- explained how indigenous knowledge has shaped their chosen issue.

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

- evaluated the extent to which each ideological response has influenced the issue
- evaluated each ideological response with some supporting evidence and the extent of the influence that an ideological response has had on the issue, sometimes in significant detail
- included very strong links to indigenous knowledge and how this has shaped the influence of the ideological responses.

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

- did not provide two ideologies that were clear and specific
- described an action to address an issue but made no connection to an ideology
- did not provide any perspectives or address any of the expected elements, such as points of view, values, and perspective
- used the word “indigenous” but did not address how any indigenous knowledge has shaped the ideological responses.

Achievement standard 91598: Demonstrate understanding of how ideologies shape society

Assessment

The examination required candidates to respond to a task, using specific evidence/examples from the resources provided about the use of social media in New Zealand politics, and relevant social studies concepts.

Commentary

Candidates who attempted all aspects of the task were able to meet the requirements of the standard. Responses commonly described the issue clearly and identified relevant perspectives or ideological positions. However, many candidates did not extend their responses to address the Merit requirement of explaining how social processes influenced the issue. In such cases, social processes were often identified but not linked with sufficient detail to show how or why they shaped the ideological responses. Social processes that were supported with specific detail and evidence were more likely to show the depth required to achieve higher grades. Candidates who demonstrated understanding at a Merit level but did not comment on which ideological response had the greatest influence on the issue were unable to gain Excellence.

Grade awarding

Candidates who were awarded **Achievement** commonly:

- identified two ideologies
- described two perspectives, though one of the descriptions was sometimes limited
- described the changes that these ideologies influenced

- identified at least one social process
- supported their response with evidence, though this evidence was sometimes limited.

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

- outlined how/why ideologies influence the response to their chosen issue
- identified and described two social processes
- explained how/why social processes have shaped society, though the explanation was sometimes limited

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

- evaluated the extent to which each ideological response has shaped society
- evaluated each ideology and commented on which ideological response has had the greatest influence
- supported their evaluation with relevant evidence, though the evidence was sometimes limited.

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

- did not provide two ideologies or two perspectives
- described the issue and the changes that might occur, but no ideologies or perspectives
- described only perspectives about the issue, not how ideologies influence changes
- included ideologies not detailed in the resource booklet so did not have evidence to support these
- identified at least one social process.