

Title	Describe concepts of democracy and government		
Level	1	Credits	4

Purpose	People credited with this unit standard are able to describe concepts of democracy and government.
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Classification	Social Science Studies > Legal Studies
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Available grade	Achieved, Merit, and Excellence
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Criteria for Merit	<p>The description of two concepts of democracy and government is demonstrated by selecting and applying relevant supporting detail that may include but is not limited to any one of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • particular facts and legislation; • past or present events or processes from New Zealand, and overseas; • case law; • news media reports.
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Criteria for Excellence	<p>The description of two concepts of democracy and government is demonstrated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • comparing two concepts of democracy and each form of government; • selecting and applying a range of relevant supporting detail; • drawing clear conclusions.
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Guidance Information

- 1 Teaching and learning guidelines that inform legal studies as it is taught in New Zealand can be found at <http://seniorsecondary.tki.org.nz/Social-sciences/Legal-studies>. Assessment support material for these standards can be found at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/legalstudies>.

This unit standard can be awarded with an Achieved, Merit, or Excellence grade. For the Achieved grade to be awarded, all outcomes must be achieved as specified in the outcome statement(s). For Merit or Excellence grades to be awarded, the candidate must meet the Merit or Excellence criteria specified above.

2 Definitions

Another form of government refers to a form of government, other than New Zealand's, such as – theocracy, oligarchy, dictatorship, another form of democracy. *Case law* refers to the collection of past legal decisions written by courts and similar tribunals in the course of deciding cases, in which the law is analysed using these cases to resolve ambiguities for deciding current cases. These past decisions are called "case law", or precedent.

News media refers to factual reporting and journalistic narratives in print media, broadcast media and the Internet.

Outcomes and performance criteria

Outcome 1

Describe concepts of democracy and government.

Performance criteria

- 1.1 Two concepts of democracy and government are described, in relation to three characteristics for each of New Zealand's system and another form of government.

Range concepts of democracy and government may include but are not limited to – rule of law, checks and balances, separation of powers, rights and their limitations, civil liberties; characteristics may include but are not limited to – suffrage, elections, human rights, media, executive power, rule of law and judicial processes, treatment of minorities.

Planned review date	31 December 2027
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Status information and last date for assessment for superseded versions

Process	Version	Date	Last Date for Assessment
Registration	1	14 December 2012	31 December 2019
Review	2	23 November 2017	31 December 2024
Review	3	2 March 2023	N/A

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference	0226
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This CMR can be accessed at <http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/framework/search/index.do>.

Comments on this unit standard

Please contact NZQA National Qualifications Services nqs@nzqa.govt.nz if you wish to suggest changes to the content of this unit standard.