



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

National Qualifications Framework Levels 1–3, 2004

Science

National Moderator's Report

National Moderator's Report

General Guidance for Assessors of Achievement and Unit Standards

The purpose of external moderation is to provide reassurance that assessor judgements are at the national standard and are made on the basis of assessment materials that are fair and valid.

All assessment materials are expected to:

- give the student the opportunity to meet the requirements of the standard
- have an assessment schedule that gives evidence of appropriate student responses and clear judgements at all levels.

The Ministry of Education contracted subject experts to write assessment resources for achievement standards. These are not pre-moderated. The intention is that they are modified to suit teaching programmes and learner needs. They do not provide 'rules' but suggest different ways of assessing to the nationally-registered standard.

General Overall Comment

The moderation of achievement standards and unit standards in Science showed that assessors are generally meeting the requirements of the standards.

It needs to be noted that there have been changes to the achievement standards at Levels 1 and 2, as well as the unit standards.

Level 1

AS 90186: Carry out a practical science investigation with direction

This standard has been re-written for 2005.

The main issue identified in moderation related to assessors providing too much direction, particularly in relation to the independent variable. Students are required to specify the range of the independent variable or sample being investigated.

Assessment schedules should provide evidence specific to the investigation, rather than generic judgement statements only.

AS 90187: Process information to describe a use of science knowledge with direction

This standard has been re-written for 2005.

Level 2

AS 90312: Carry out a practical scientific investigation with supervision

This standard has been reviewed and has minor changes.

The main problem identified by moderation was assessors giving **too much direction**, particularly in relation to the independent variable. The student is required to select and specify the range of the variables for the investigation.

AS 90313: *Research an environmental issue or the historical development of a scientific idea*

This standard has been reviewed and has minor changes.

Students show a good understanding of what is required to research, develop and report on a topic.

Level 3

AS 90727: *Carry out an extended practical scientific investigation with guidance*

Assessment schedules should provide evidence specific to the investigation, rather than generic judgement statements only.

AS 90728: *Research a current scientific controversy*

Students show a good understanding of what is required to research, develop and report on a topic.

Unit Standards

The unit standards have been reviewed for 2005. Assessors are reminded to refer to the special notes to ensure all requirements of the standard are met.