



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

National Qualifications Framework Levels 1–3, 2005

Media Studies

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 learner the opportunity to meet the requirements of the standard
- have an assessment schedule that gives evidence of appropriate learner 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

Accuracy and consistency in assessment decisions across the country continue to improve as assessors become more familiar and confident with standards-based assessment. There has also been a marked improvement in modified published activities and assessor-developed activities. Assessors are becoming more aware of the nature of the relationship between the standard and activity. In a subject area with such a diverse range of contexts and approaches, it is important that assessors continue to modify and develop their own activities to best meet the needs of their learners, using published activities as guidelines for what might be appropriate. Assessors should remember it is the standard itself that is being assessed; the activity, as an interpretation of the standard, can be reworked in many different ways as long as the standard is still addressed in a valid and sufficient way.

Extensive comments on the Version 1 level 3 standards were made in the 2004 National Moderator's Report, and on the Version 1 level 2 standards in the 2003 National Moderator's Report. Many of these comments are relevant for 2005 and beyond. This report will focus on the Version 2 level 2 standards and AS 90765.

AS 90277: *Close read unfamiliar media text*

Version 2 of this standard contains only minor changes from Version 1. Refer to the relevant comments on this standard in the 2003 National Moderator's Report.

AS 90280: *Demonstrate understanding of narrative conventions in media texts*

The shift in terminology ('explain' from Achieved to Merit) in Version 2 of this standard has made the standard somewhat easier to achieve. Candidates in 2005 were not completing such extensive studies of texts to achieve the standard. However, work completed for assessment has mostly been appropriately rigorous, particularly when compared with work required in other standards in this subject and other subjects at this level.

There is still confusion about what constitutes a narrative convention. Refer to the comments in the 2003 National Moderator's Report for discussion of this.

Assessors should avoid focusing learner attention on individual features of language when considering this standard. Narrative conventions are better understood as the larger patterns that

make up the story. For example, when studying the way characterisation creates narrative in film, rather than focusing on an individual shot showing a powerful character, learners should consider the character's motives, personality, situation, desires, etc and the way these help to drive the story. As supporting commentary, learners might comment on the way these aspects of character are shown, and mention the use of low-angle shots to show power, for example; but this detail would come as part of a larger study of characterisation in the film.

AS 90282: *Use technology in media production*

Refer to the comments in the 2003 National Moderator's Report, which are still pertinent. It is vital that candidates complete technology use as individuals for assessment. Where they are working as part of a group, assessors need to make sure appropriate processes are in place to ensure authenticity of assessment.

AS 90765: *Design and produce a media product and evaluate the process used to create the product*

This standard combines assessment of Version 1 of AS 90281 and AS 90283. Comments in the 2003 National Moderator's Report for these standards are relevant to AS 90765.