



NEW ZEALAND QUALIFICATIONS AUTHORITY
MANA TOHU MĀTAURANGA O AOTEAROA

**National Qualifications
Framework
Levels 2–3, 2006**

Legal Studies

National Moderator's Report

General Guidance for Assessors of Achievement and Unit Standards

The purpose of external moderation is to provide reassurance that assessor judgments 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 judgments 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

As there has been a major re-write of the Legal Studies unit standards during 2006 there is little point in commenting on any individual standard interpretation at this stage. The re-write has up-dated the content of unit standards to meet current law and new wording will clarify interpretations. These standards will be registered during 2007 and cannot be used until they are registered, when they will appear on the NZQA website.

In general, the quality of assessments, assessment schedules and provider judgements is very high, consistent and at the national standard. The major reason for materials needing modification is the same as it was last year, ie assessment schedules and judgement statements not being submitted for moderation. Providers need to prepare these and submit them for moderation. They need to take note of the difference between evidence and judgement statements and accurately present these for moderation. All evidence statements need to be checked for content accuracy.

Providers also need to check commercial materials carefully to make sure that they meet all the requirements of the current standards and that they are accurate.

Providers also need to make sure that the conditions they set for the assessment are appropriate to the type of assessment. An open book activity is not considered appropriate for mainly recall type answers. Open book assessments can be used but are more appropriate where students have to research and/or apply knowledge to new situations.