

Assessment Report

New Zealand Scholarship Earth and Space Science 2024

Performance standard 93104

General commentary

The paper contained questions that were open and garnered good answers from the candidates. Candidates provided answers that showed varied levels of understanding, and most were able to attain a scholarship level answer in at least one question. A common occurrence for the space question was that candidates tended to write a large amount about the formation of our own solar system without attempting to analyse the differences between the two systems, as expected in the question. Candidates are recommended to amalgamate their knowledge from the Level 2 and Level 3 content succinctly before they attempt the higher-level thinking required for Scholarship.

Report on performance standard

Candidates who were awarded Scholarship with **Outstanding Performance** commonly:

- wrote complete and fluent answers, linking multiple ideas
- showed their own insight by going beyond the question
- completed an effective analysis for Question Three of the differences between the TOI 270 and our own solar system, underpinned by solid understanding of Earth and Space Science principles
- made accurate references and inferences throughout the paper (e.g. they correctly determined that the extinct South Island volcanoes were formed from a hot spot)
- were able to extrapolate the future of our plate boundary by discussing the likely direction of its movement over the next few million years.

Candidates who were awarded **Scholarship** commonly:

- demonstrated understanding beyond the Level 2 and 3 curricula in a cohesive manner
- explained ENSO and its effect on atmospheric rivers before attempting to compare the difference in effects on the North and South Islands
- could use their knowledge of New Zealand's current geological setting and begin to apply it to the formation of the Waitakere volcano or Coromandel Volcanic Zone
- provided some analysis of the differences in the formation of the TOI 270 system and our own solar system.

Candidates who were **not awarded Scholarship** commonly:

- did not answer all questions
- wrote in a manner that was unable to be read or one that lacked flow
- made significant errors that showed a lack of understanding of Earth and Space Science principles (e.g. they did not have the correct conditions for El Niño or La Niña)
- stated points without integration or explanation.