

Assessment Report

New Zealand Scholarship History 2024

Performance standard 93403

General commentary

Candidates who achieved at Scholarship level demonstrated a strong understanding of the required skills and historical knowledge. Responses were clear, focused, and well-structured across the three examination questions, reflecting thorough preparation and a deep engagement with the theme of treaties and Indigenous peoples. Most candidates demonstrated a sophisticated understanding of the social, economic, and political contexts underpinning the questions, particularly regarding the continuing relevance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the impacts of treaties on Indigenous peoples in North America, and the inevitability of the 1840 treaty between Māori and the British Crown.

Strong planning and structured responses were consistent features of successful candidates. These candidates effectively integrated material from the resource booklet with their own knowledge, using evidence to support arguments, while critically engaging with the reliability, usefulness, and limitations of the sources provided.

Question One required candidates to evaluate the differing historical narratives of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its continuing relevance. Successful responses went beyond a simple judgement and offered a critical evaluation of the sources, analysing their reliability and limitations, while situating the discussion within broader historical debates about the Treaty's significance. High-performing candidates substantiated their arguments with a combination of resource booklet material and their own historical knowledge, demonstrating a nuanced understanding of the complexity and relevance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a foundational document in Aotearoa New Zealand's history.

Question Two required candidates to analyse historical relationships concerning treaties and Indigenous peoples in North America. Strong responses showed the ability to evaluate complex cause-and-effect relationships, patterns, and differing perspectives. High-achieving candidates provided insightful discussions of the social, economic, and political impacts of treaties on Indigenous communities, supported by critical engagement with the sources and independent historical knowledge. These candidates highlighted significant relationships, such as continuity and change, and the tensions between past and present interpretations of treaties.

Question Three challenged candidates to consider whether the 1840 treaty between Māori and the British Crown was inevitable, using their own understanding of events between 1830 and 1840, in addition to utilising the resources. High-performing responses demonstrated detailed knowledge of key social, economic, and political developments during this period, such as the increasing presence of British settlers, growing economic interactions, and political tensions among different iwi. Strong arguments critically evaluated the inevitability of the treaty, while considering alternative perspectives, using the resource booklet material effectively to support insightful and well-substantiated conclusions.

Report on performance standard

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

- wrote with authority, demonstrating a sophisticated understanding of the complexities of treaties and their historical contexts
- integrated knowledge and understanding seamlessly, providing insightful commentary on the themes
- tackled complex contexts confidently, such as the historical relationships between Indigenous peoples and colonial powers
- displayed an excellent understanding of the Aotearoa New Zealand context, particularly in evaluating the inevitability of the 1840 treaty
- demonstrated strong awareness of the scope of each question, responding with confidence and clarity.

Candidates who were awarded **Scholarship** commonly:

- demonstrated a sound knowledge of the historical themes, particularly around treaties and their impact on Indigenous peoples
- demonstrated a sound understanding of the Aotearoa New Zealand context, including the significance, scope, and complexity of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- wrote clearly and concisely in response to each question, providing structured arguments
- gave equal weight and time to each question, ensuring comprehensive coverage of all aspects of the assessment
- planned their responses carefully to ensure logical flow and depth of analysis
- used sources effectively to support their responses, without relying solely on the material provided
- demonstrated clear awareness of the scope of each question and the skills being evaluated, such as evaluating historical evidence and analysing relationships.

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

- provided brief and often incomplete responses, limiting their ability to fully engage with the questions
- did not respond fully to all three questions, showing a limited understanding of the scope of each question
- demonstrated a superficial understanding of the historical themes, often relying on the sources without critical analysis
- demonstrated insufficient knowledge of the Aotearoa New Zealand context or the wider historical themes being assessed
- wrote with limited purpose or intent, demonstrating a lack of planning.