

Assessment Report

New Zealand Scholarship History 2025

Performance standard 93403

General commentary

Candidates who were awarded Scholarship showed strong historical understanding, effective use of sources, and a clear awareness of the scope and intent of each question. Higher-performing candidates demonstrated an ability to integrate contextual knowledge with source material and responded to all questions with balance and purpose.

The strongest responses reflected careful planning, clarity of expression, and a confident engagement with historical narratives and relationships, particularly in evaluating the role of the individual in shaping historical events within their broader historical contexts.

Report on performance standard

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

- wrote with authority and confidence
- integrated historical knowledge and understanding seamlessly
- analysed complex historical contexts with clarity and precision
- demonstrated an excellent understanding and knowledge of the Aotearoa New Zealand context that was informed and sophisticated
- responded with confidence to the scope and evaluative demands of the assessment.

Candidates who were awarded **Scholarship** commonly:

- demonstrated sound historical skills relevant to the demands of the assessment
- showed strong knowledge of the overarching historical themes
- demonstrated a sound understanding of the Aotearoa New Zealand context, focusing on the role of governors between 1852 and 1873
- used the sources to support their arguments without relying on them exclusively
- allocated time and depth evenly across all three questions
- planned their responses, resulting in clear, concise, and purposeful writing
- demonstrated awareness of the scope of the assessment and the specific skills being assessed – particularly for Question Two, where a range of historical relationships were identified in a clear manner while assessing the extent to which the individual shaped events – in relation to broader historical factors.

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

- did not respond effectively to all three questions
- did not demonstrate awareness of the scope of the assessment – particularly for Question Two, where there was no acknowledgement of any historical relationships – a key requirement of the question
- relied heavily on the source material, with limited use of wider historical knowledge
- demonstrated only superficial engagement with the theme of the role of the individual in shaping historical events
- did not demonstrate understanding of the Aotearoa New Zealand context
- wrote responses that lacked clear purpose or direction, reflecting limited evidence of planning.