

Assessment Report

New Zealand Scholarship Religious Studies 2025

Performance standard 93603

General commentary

Candidates were required to respond to one of two questions provided; the questions were answered in approximately equal numbers. Candidates discussed a wide range of issues, reflecting the broad nature of the topics. Candidates were successful when they sought to move beyond listing evidence to making arguments and drawing conclusions in relation to the questions asked. While most candidates were able to give a wide range of examples of the clash or agreement of religion and DEI (diversity, equity, and inclusion), many were unable to analyse this connection with sufficient depth.

Report on performance standard

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

- chose the strongest and most representative versions of the views they were discussing
- demonstrated an understanding of the implications of holding varied positions on DEI in religious traditions beyond the immediate context
- provided a novel line of argument that advanced the discussion and did not just repeat the standard arguments.

Candidates who were awarded **Scholarship** commonly:

- based their answer on clearly articulated reasons or arguments
- referred to a range of relevant sources about DEI in religious traditions
- presented ideas systematically, dealing with different topics consecutively.

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

- provided a description of their understanding of DEI in religious traditions, but demonstrated limited analysis
- drew from sources in isolation without showing how they fitted together or mutually supported each other
- struggled to address the terms and questions asked by the standard
- were unable to provide a structure to their answer.