

NCEA Review and Maintenance Programme – 2026 updates

Review and maintenance work has been undertaken for all three levels of NZC NCEA for 2026. This pdf document contains the updated Achievement Standards for **Geography Level 1**. In January 2026 the NCEA website will be updated with these changes for Level 1, and the pdf version will be removed as it will no longer be necessary. For Levels 2 and 3, NZQA will update their website with the registered standards in December. For external assessment specifications, refer to the NZQA website.

Subject: Geography Level 1

| Standard | What's changed? |
|-----------------------|---|
| AS 1.3 91934 Standard | Explanatory Note 4: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 'Flash flood' removed as an example and replaced with 'flood plain' |

Achievement Standard**Subject Reference** Geography 1.3**Title** Demonstrate understanding of how natural processes shape an environment**Level** 1 **Credits** 5 **Assessment** External**Subfield** Social Science Studies**Domain** Geography**Status** Approved **Status date** September 2025**Planned review date** December 2028 **Date version published** December 2025**Purpose Statement**

Students are able to demonstrate understanding of how natural processes shape an environment.

Achievement Criteria

| Achievement | Achievement with Merit | Achievement with Excellence |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrate understanding of how natural processes shape an environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explain how natural processes shape an environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examine how natural processes shape an environment |

Explanatory Notes

- 1 *Demonstrate understanding of how natural processes shape an environment* involves:
- describing natural processes and the resulting phenomena within an environment
 - describing impacts on the environment from the natural processes and phenomena
 - including relevant evidence and geographic terminology in the descriptions.

Explain how natural processes shape an environment involves:

- explaining how natural processes create phenomena within the environment
- explaining wider impacts of the natural processes on the environment
- using evidence and geographic terminology to support the explanation.

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Examine how natural processes shape an environment involves:

- examining implications of natural processes for the environment
- using evidence and geographic terminology to develop the explanation.

2 An *environment* refers to a particular geographic area within te taiao that has its own characteristics. For the purposes of this standard, people are considered to be a part of the environment.

3 *Natural processes* can be:

- glacial
- tectonic
- climatic
- coastal
- fluvial.

4 *Phenomena* are types of geographic features, objects, or events that can be mapped. They can exist at a local, regional, national, or global scale. For the purposes of this standard, phenomena are created by natural processes.

Examples include:

- u-shaped valley
- volcanic cone
- floodplain.

Phenomena are more than one phenomenon, for example, a u-shaped valley and a glacier within an environment.

5 *Implications* are real or potential effects, outcomes, or responses for people who live in or near an environment shaped by natural processes.

6 Refer to the NCEA [glossary](#) for Māori, Pacific, and further subject-specific terms and concepts.

7 This achievement standard is derived from the Social Sciences Learning Area at Level 6 of *The New Zealand Curriculum*: Learning Media, Ministry of Education, 2007.

Replacement Information

This achievement standard, AS91932, AS91933, and AS91935 replaced AS91007-AS91014.

Quality Assurance

- 1 Schools and institutions must have been granted consent to assess by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against achievement standards.
- 2 Schools and institutions with consent to assess must engage with the moderation system that applies to those achievement standards.

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference 0233
