

# 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 **Social Studies 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: Social Studies Level 1

Standard	What's changed?
AS 1.3 92050	Explanatory Note 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>revised to sharpen the focus of the Achievement Standard on decision making.</li></ul>

**Achievement Standard****Subject Reference** Social Studies 1.3**Title** Demonstrate understanding of decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue**Level** 1 **Credits** 5 **Assessment** External**Subfield** Social Science Studies**Domain** Social Studies**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 decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue.

**Achievement Criteria**

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate understanding of decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explain decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Examine decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue</li> </ul>

**Explanatory Notes**

1 *Demonstrate understanding of decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue* involves:

- describing decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue
- describing the intended outcomes of the decisions made in relation to the contemporary social issue
- including relevant evidence in the description.

*Explain decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue* involves:

- explaining the rationale of the decisions made with reference to the contemporary social issue
- using evidence to support the explanation.

- D] *Examine decisions made in relation to a contemporary social issue* involves:
- discussing how the decisions relate to each other, with reference to the rationale and the contemporary social issue
  - using evidence to develop the explanation.
- 2 A *decision* is a potential solution or resolution to an issue. It may be in the form of a plan, a law or policy change, or an agreement reached in relation to an issue.
- 3 A *contemporary social issue* refers to an issue that is currently affecting various people or places. For the purposes of this standard, a contemporary social issue must consider one or a combination of:
- the inclusion of diverse identities
  - the impact on people's rights
  - the responsibilities and roles of social organisations
  - the nature of power.
- 4 Refer to the NCEA [glossary](#) for Māori, Pacific, and further subject-specific terms and concepts.
- 5 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.
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## Replacement Information

This achievement standard, AS92048, AS92049, and AS92051 replaced AS91039-AS91043.

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## 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

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