**ASSESSMENT UPDATE**

As I hope you are aware NZBoGT have been campaigning hard on your behalf to update several of the Achievement Standards over the past few years. We put in a major submission following our AGM in April of this year. It therefore seems timely to inform you of what has happened since then.

There is both good and bad news to relate. First the negative – we did ask for a few major changes including the number of credits available for certain standards to bring into line with other Social Science subjects. However, as I am sure you are aware there is to be a major review of all assessment beginning in 2018. They have therefore put any major changes aside until that review so these will not be changing in 2018. While this is a blow be sure we will make sure that our requests are considered in the review process.

So to the good. We have managed to update 6 Achievement Standards which will be available to you on line from early December once NCEA exams are finished. These are all changes we lobbied for so can be seen as a win for us all. Details of this are below.

1. **Level 1 AS91012** Describe aspects of a contemporary New Zealand geographic issue

The word ‘assess’ relating to the Merit grade for strength(s) and weakness(es) of different courses of action has been replaced with the word ‘**describe in detail**”. It was always felt that assess is too high a level for a Merit student.

1. **Level 2 AS91241** Demonstrate geographic understanding of an urban pattern

For the first bullet point for both Achievement and Merit levels this has changed from “explain’ the urban pattern to ‘**describe**’ and ‘**describe in detai**l’ the urban pattern. It was always felt that this bullet point was a copy of the second bullet point where you had to explain the factors that contribute to the pattern. Also you cannot explain a pattern until you identify what the pattern is.

1. **Level 2 AS91242** Demonstrate geographic understanding of differences in development.

This is the only external to change. This relates to bullet point 3 where prior you had to include both natural and cultural factors that led to development. This has been changed to natural **and /or** cultural factors. This allows those settings where it is very difficult to find natural factors for to still be included.

1. **Level 2 AS91244** Conduct geographic research with guidance

The change here relates to presentations for Achievement. This has been changed from presentations needing ‘a combination of spatial and statistical and visual data’ to ‘ a combination of spatial and statistical **and/or** visual data’. The reason for this is that the previous requirement made this harder than the equivalent Level 3 standard. These now read the same. Note that all 3 are still required for Merit and Excellence.

1. **Level 2 AS91245** Explain aspects of a contemporary New Zealand geographic issue

This change relates to the changing viewpoints over time. Tis has changed from ‘viewpoints’ to ‘a viewpoint’ for Achievement, Merit and excellence. It was becoming too difficult to find multiple viewpoints that change over time and hence the reason for this. It has been a grey area for a time as I believe moderators were ignoring the fact that only one were often mentioned but the change now make it clear that this is indeed acceptable.

1. **Level 2 AS91246** Explain aspects of a geographic topic at a global scale

The change here does not involve any change of meaning. It relates to the reasons for the global pattern. Wording has changed from “explaining the causes that contribute to the global pattern’ to ‘explaining the **factors and/or processes** that contribute to the global pattern”. This then uses consistent wording with Level 1 and 3 for this strand to avoid confusion.

I know some of you will be a little disappointed with the fact these are the only changes we can report. I assure you that NZBoGT will continue to lobby on your behalf to eventually obtain standards acceptable to all.

Jane Evans

Assessment portfolio holder

**HAVE YOU COMPLETED THE EXAM SURVEYS!!**

This survey is one of the few that will reach examiners in time to make a difference. Hence PLEASE do you best to complete the surveys to ensure we make our externals as fair as possible for our students. This year each level has its own survey so click on the ones appropriate to you. We need as many responses as possible!!

Level 1 Geography <https://goo.gl/forms/3CrJhbtpny3aD2vs1>

Level 2 Geography <https://goo.gl/forms/Zae75N29DjwnJu463>

Level 3 Geography <https://goo.gl/forms/5PSpplSXGJoWntkI3>

Scholarship <https://goo.gl/forms/VzZTZv7EKh9LgryD2>

Many thanks

Jane Evans

Assessment portfolio holder.