

Assessment Report

New Zealand Scholarship Earth and Space Science 2023

Performance standard 93104

General commentary

Candidates must ensure that they read the questions carefully, and that their response relates to the context. It was largely observed that candidates would recognise the content and write what they knew about it, but would fail to relate it to the context. For example, several candidates would explain the ocean carbon cycle but would fail to compare the importance of plants to phytoplankton provided in the resource booklet. In Question Three, candidates often explained how all of Earth's atmospheric cells form in detail, which was irrelevant and not required.

Also, some reworded the resource material, rather than exploring the relevance of the material provided. For example, in Question One they reworded the material around whales and their place in the carbon cycle, but would not explore how humans could assist in increasing whale numbers.

Report on performance standard

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

- demonstrated thorough understanding of the questions and would develop more ideas than Scholarship students. For example, they would explore human interventions in the carbon cycle
- established sophisticated analysis of similarities and differences between slow-slip and sudden release earthquakes. Similarly they showed detailed analysis between Earth and Jupiter's atmospheres
- provided well-structured answers that flowed and related the content to the contexts provided in all the questions.

Candidates who were awarded **Scholarship** commonly:

- demonstrated good understanding of the questions and developed ideas of their own from the material provided. For example, significance of plants compared to phytoplankton in the carbon cycle
- analysed some of the similarities and differences between slow-slip and sudden release earthquakes, and showed some clear understanding between the Earth and Jupiter's atmospheres.

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

- reworded the resource material without using it to develop their ideas
- did not write well-structured answers or briefly attempted only two questions
- wrote profusely but did not relate the content to the contexts in the questions with relevance to the resource material.