

To be completed by candidate

NSN

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School Code

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SUPERVISOR'S USE ONLY

32403 TERM 3

Draw a cross through the box (X) if you have NOT written in this booklet

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Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Literacy 2026

32403 Demonstrate understanding of ideas and information in written texts

Credits: Five

WEEK ONE | 7–11 SEPTEMBER 2026

OUTCOMES	
1	Demonstrate understanding of written texts.
2	Evaluate written texts with critical awareness.
3	Process written texts for different purposes.

Enter your National Student Number (NSN) and School Code into the space above.

You should attempt ALL the questions in this booklet.

Check that this booklet has pages 2–26 in the correct order and that none of these pages is blank.

Do not write in the margins (// // //). This area will be cut off when the booklet is marked.

YOU MUST HAND THIS BOOKLET TO THE SUPERVISOR AT THE END OF THE EXAMINATION.

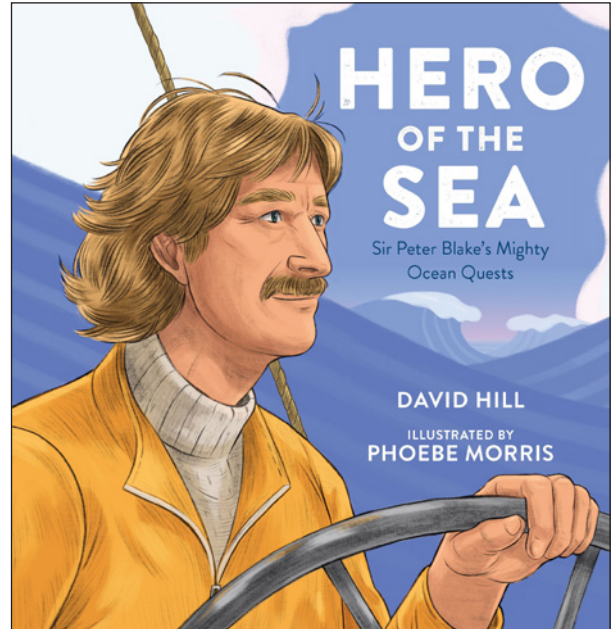
QUESTION ONE

Read both Text A and Text B (below and on page 3) and select (✓) the best answer to all parts of the question on pages 4 and 5.

Text A (extract from a book)

Hero of the Sea: Sir Peter Blake's Mighty Ocean Quests, by David Hill

He was one of the world's greatest yachtsmen,

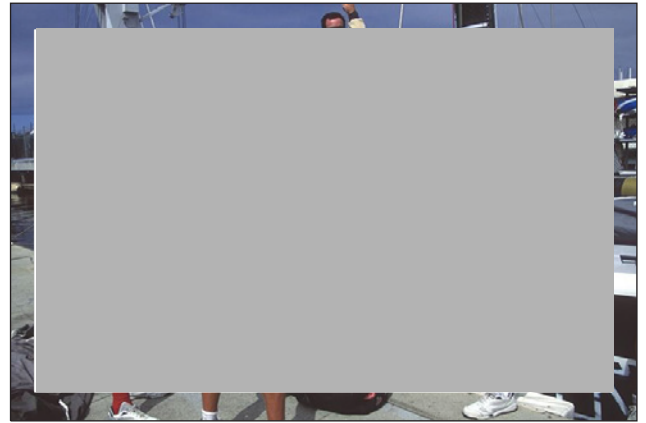


inspiring thousands of young New Zealanders to care for the environment.

Text B (from an author interview)**David Hill, author of *Hero of the Sea***

David Hill, an award-winning New Zealand author, has captured the essence of Sir Peter Blake in his book *Hero of the Sea*.

Hill's extensive research taught him a lot about both the man, and sailing. "I'd known Peter mainly as the sailor, but I hadn't realised the extent of his total dedication to the environment," Hill says. **"This was a guy with a searchlight in his head. He would apply it to yachting, and when it came to the environmental issues, he had the same absolute, almost irradiating quality."**



Sir Peter Blake (far left) wearing his red socks next to *Black Magic*

- (a) *The Sir Peter Blake Trust is dedicated to continuing Peter's **legacy** by inspiring thousands of young New Zealanders to care for the environment.*

The best word to replace **legacy** in Text A is:

- ☐ fundraising
- ☐ kindness
- ☐ courage
- ☐ life-work

- (b) David Hill captured the essence of Sir Peter Blake by:

- ☐ researching Sir Peter Blake's life and adventures.
- ☐ following Sir Peter Blake's journey to the Amazon.
- ☐ conducting interviews with Sir Peter Blake himself.
- ☐ sailing to the places Sir Peter Blake had visited.

- (c) *"This was a guy with a searchlight in his head. He would apply it to yachting, and when it came to the environmental issues, he had the same absolute, almost irradiating quality."*

David Hill said this in Text B to show that Sir Peter Blake:

- ☐ used lighting equipment in both his yachting and environmental activities.
- ☐ highlighted important issues about protecting elephants in zoos.
- ☐ would focus on and light up aspects of whatever he committed himself to.
- ☐ was put in the spotlight with the attention on his sea adventures.

- (d) *"one breath out of every five we take comes from Amazon trees"*

In Text A, Sir Peter Blake said this mainly to:

- ☐ show the importance of trees in the Amazon.
- ☐ show that the Amazon has numerous trees.
- ☐ explain why people had to leave the Amazon.
- ☐ explain how people in the Amazon breathe.

(e) Why were “red socks” important to Sir Peter Blake’s America’s Cup challenge?

- ☐ They kept Peter’s feet warm while sailing.
- ☐ They made Peter a very wealthy man.
- ☐ They symbolised everyone rallying together.
- ☐ They were very popular and fashionable.

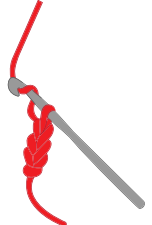
QUESTION TWO

Read the crochet forum (below and on page 7) and select (✓) the best answer to all parts of the question on pages 8 and 9.



CROCHET CHAT FORUM

Creating cool things from just a hook, needle,
and wool – one stitch at a time!





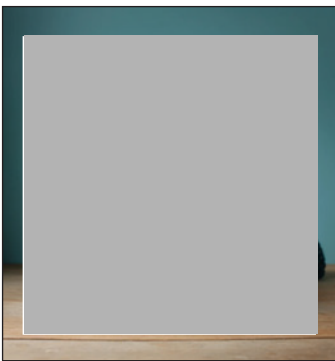
Lucas posted:

Please be kind! I feel like such a failure.

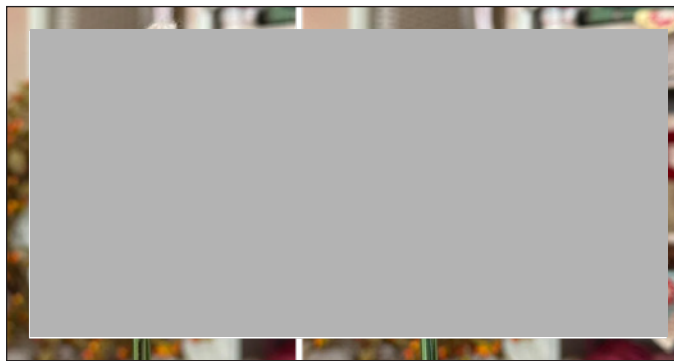
I am a beginner at crochet. I bought a crochet pattern for a cute whale but it turned out terribly! I found the pattern confusing, and had to improvise a bit, but I followed it as closely as I could. Sadly, my whale looks nothing like how it was supposed to turn out!

The first picture is from the pattern, and the second picture is my whale. I am so disappointed in myself and want to know what I did wrong, so I don't do it again when I make my next whale.

Picture one



Picture two



Jess commented:

As you are a beginner, it would be good for you to choose a pattern with basic stitches and lots of pictures so you can follow along. I highly recommend starting with bulky wool, because you'll see your progress really fast and the stitches are easier to see and count. Even better if it's in a light colour, because it makes your stitches much more visible.



Max commented:

Hey! I think you've made a groovy little guy. Your little whale is still super cute, even if he didn't turn out how you'd pictured him. He looks like he has a cool attitude! Well done on actually making something!



Roimata commented:

The problem wasn't you. If you look at the first picture, you'll notice that the whale looks like it is slightly floating (rather than being flat on the table). The picture is AI generated, which means you'll never get something looking as good. When the picture of a pattern is AI generated, it often means the pattern is too. AI patterns unfortunately look like the real thing – until you try to make them and then they don't make much sense. That is probably why you found it confusing and it turned out very different to the picture. Other signs you can look for to see if an image of crochet is AI generated is that it is very detailed, has seamless colour changes, looks too perfect, or has something odd about it.



Kiran commented:

Unfortunately, I think you bought an AI-generated pattern. The stitches are too perfect. I am sorry you wasted your time and money on this pattern. I'm a beginner too, so I would be happy to make a whale like yours! I know the basic stitches, but have no idea how to read a crochet pattern. It does look like you chose a wool that was a very different colour. What sized crochet hooks did you use? Did the pattern tell you what size wool to use?

Glossary

AI artificial intelligence

(a) What is Lucas' main purpose in posting this message on the crochet forum?

- ☐ To find out how to start crocheting.
- ☐ To get help to make a crocheted whale.
- ☐ To make friends with other crocheters.
- ☐ To learn more about the problems with AI.

(b) Lucas uses exclamation marks (!) in his writing mainly to show his:

- ☐ strong feelings.
- ☐ excitement.
- ☐ relaxed attitude.
- ☐ sense of humour.

(c) What makes Kiran think the pattern is AI generated?

- ☐ The colours of the whale.
- ☐ The thickness of the wool.
- ☐ The way the whale is positioned.
- ☐ The appearance of the stitches.

(d) Whose answer provides the most helpful information to Lucas as a beginner at crochet?

- ☐ Jess
- ☐ Max
- ☐ Roimata
- ☐ Kiran

(e) Who gives the most detail in the language they use about how to avoid AI-generated patterns in the future?

- ☐ Jess
- ☐ Max
- ☐ Roimata
- ☐ Kiran

(f) Who best follows Lucas' request to "Please be kind!"?

- ☐ Jess
- ☐ Max
- ☐ Roimata
- ☐ Kiran

QUESTION THREE

Read the article (below and on page 11) and select (✓) the best answer to all parts of the question on pages 12 and 13.

Amazing ants

Introduction

Ants have been around since the dinosaurs. They were here for 100 million years before ruining a single picnic.

Today, up to 10 quadrillion (10,000,000,000,000,000) ants are alive on Earth at any given time. Their total weight is about the same as all 7.4 billion humans put together. **Ants exist almost everywhere, except – ironically – Antarctica.**

Even after all this time, we're still learning new secrets about ants. Here are a few of the most amazing things we know ... so far.

Ants can make life rafts

Some ants – like fire ants – live underground. For these ants, floods are a danger. Fire ants handle floods by turning the entire colony into a living raft.

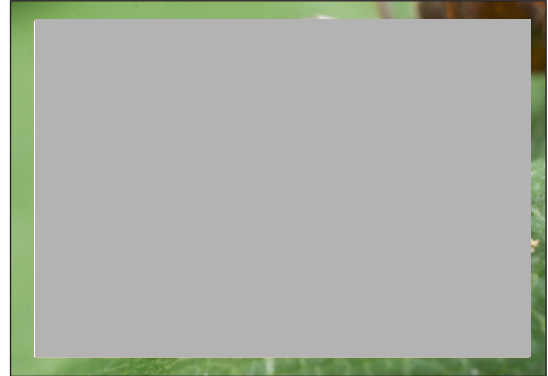
A layer of ants lock together to create a watertight base that is hard to sink. Fire ants can form this raft in only 100 seconds. If necessary, they can remain in raft formation for weeks until floodwaters go down.

Ants are farmers

Ants are among very few animals known to cultivate crops and livestock, skills they mastered more than 50 million years ago. (Humans only began farming in the last 12,000 years.)

At least 210 ant species are fungus farmers, fertilising crops with organic matter. Some even protect their crops with pesticides, growing bacteria that produce antibiotics to kill parasites.

Lots of ant species tend livestock, too. Aphids are prized by ants for the honeydew they make. Chemicals on ants' feet keep aphids calm. Ants sometimes bite off aphids' wings to prevent escape. Ants move and carry aphids to new plants, protect them from predators, and even care for aphids' eggs.



An ant looking after an aphid, which is a smaller insect

Ants can lift up to 5,000 times their body weight

You may have heard that ants can carry 10, 50, or 100 times their own weight. But, according to a 2014 study, ants can actually lift much more: 3,400 to 5,000 times their own body weight.

To assess ants' strength, researchers placed them in a centrifuge and examined them with a micro-CT machine. While the centrifuge created the pressure of carrying a heavy load, the micro-CT scans revealed how the ants carry so much weight. Each part of the head-neck-chest joint has tiny structures that support heavy loads.

One 'megacolony' of ants spans continents

After humans accidentally introduced them to five new continents, Argentine ants established an empire. This 'megacolony' consists of several 'supercolonies'.

The largest-known supercolony stretches about 6,000 km from Italy to Portugal. Another spans more than 900 km in the western United States. Despite the vast distance between them, both are part of the same empire, scientists say, along with a third supercolony in Japan.

How do we know? Ants are territorial, and tend to fight members of their own species if they come from another colony. Yet, while supercolonies include many distinct nests, ants within a supercolony treat each other like family – even if their homes are far apart. Scientists can test the size of a supercolony (or megacolony) by introducing ants of the same species from farther and farther away until they fight.

(a) According to this text, the researchers work out the size of a megacolony by:

- ☐ measuring the lengths of ants from different countries.
- ☐ tracking ants to find out where they have travelled to.
- ☐ seeing if ants from different places would fight each other.
- ☐ analysing ants' DNA to find out how closely they were related.

(b) "Ants exist almost everywhere, except – **ironically** – *Antarctica*."

The author added – **ironically** – and used *italics* for **Ant** in this sentence to:

- ☐ describe the lack of ants in Antarctica.
- ☐ make a joke about the words 'ant' and 'Antarctica'.
- ☐ explain that Antarctica doesn't have much life.
- ☐ show that humans are in more places than ants.

(c) *Ants are among very few animals known to **cultivate** crops and livestock, skills they mastered more than 50 million years ago.*

The words with the closest meaning to **cultivate** in this sentence are:

- ☐ grow and nurture.
- ☐ hunt and gather.
- ☐ inspect and examine.
- ☐ consume and devour.

(d) The author most likely thinks:

- ☐ ants have a bigger body weight than humans.
- ☐ there are still new things to find out about ants.
- ☐ humans are much better at farming than ants.
- ☐ there are too many ants in the world nowadays.

(e) Which section provides the most detail about the equipment scientists have used in ant research?

- ☐ *Ants can make life rafts*
- ☐ *Ants are farmers*
- ☐ *Ants can lift up to 5,000 times their body weight*
- ☐ *One 'megacolony' of ants spans three continents*

(f) Information about which fact is in both the *Introduction* and *Ants are farmers* sections?

- ☐ There are lots of different types of ants.
- ☐ Ants have different chemicals on their feet.
- ☐ There are more ants on Earth than humans.
- ☐ Ants have lived on Earth for a very long time.

QUESTION FOUR

Read the information (below and on page 15) and select (✓) the best answer to all parts of the question on pages 16 and 17.

Music copyright

AJ loves making music. His aunt tells him that his music is really good and he should copyright it to prevent others from using it without his permission. AJ decides to learn more about copyright. He finds this information on the Copyright Licensing New Zealand website.

Copyright for songwriters and composers

Introduction

Musical works (compositions) and literary works (like song lyrics) are automatically protected by copyright when they are recorded either in writing or as a sound file. There is no need to register copyright or go through any process for your songs to be protected by copyright. To be protected by copyright, a work must be original and not copied. It must come from the author's (creator's) own work and skills.

Ownership of copyright in music and lyrics

Usually, the composer owns the copyright for the music. **The lyricist owns the copyright for the lyrics.** There may be more than one owner of copyright in a single work. If you collaborate with other people in writing music, it is sensible to have a written agreement about copyright ownership. This will help avoid confusion and disputes in the future.

Separate copyright in sound recordings

A sound recording is where the music is recorded so it can be played back later. A sound recording is also protected by copyright. This copyright is separate from the copyright for the music or lyrics.

For example, in an album there may be a copyright in:

- each piece of music (for example, composed by person A who owns the music copyright)
- the lyrics to each song (for example, written by person B who owns the lyric copyright)
- the sound recording of the music and lyrics (for example, performed and recorded by person C who owns the sound recording copyright).

The copyright rules for sound recordings are a little different from the rules for music and lyrics.

How long does copyright last?

In New Zealand, copyright for music and lyrics lasts for the author's lifetime plus 50 years after their death. The 50 years starts at the end of the year the author dies.

Sound recordings have slightly different rules. Copyright lasts 50 years from the end of the year the recording was made or released to the public, whichever is later.

Copyright lasts longer in some places, such as Australia, Europe, and the United States of America.

Copyright symbols and notices

You do not have to add a copyright notice for your work to be protected. However, many people still include one.

A copyright notice usually includes the © symbol, the copyright owner's name, and the year the work was first published.

For example: © Josephine Bloggs, 2026.

(a) The main purpose of the information that AJ found is to:

- ☐ convince songwriters and composers to get copyright.
- ☐ educate songwriters and composers on copyright notices.
- ☐ inform songwriters and composers about copyright.
- ☐ promote copyright benefits to songwriters and composers.

(b) In the *Introduction* section of *Copyright for songwriters and composers*, brackets () are used to:

- ☐ add new information.
- ☐ clarify what words mean.
- ☐ create a friendly tone.
- ☐ link to further reading.

(c) The **lyricist** owns the copyright for the lyrics.

A lyricist:

- ☐ sings the song's words.
- ☐ creates the song's tune.
- ☐ records the song's tune.
- ☐ writes the song's words.

(d) If AJ wants to know if he can trust this information, he should:

- ☐ ask his aunt and find out what she thinks.
- ☐ look up the meaning of copyright in a dictionary.
- ☐ learn more about Copyright Licensing New Zealand.
- ☐ find out more about how copyright works in other countries.

(e) If AJ wants to write music with a friend, which section has the most useful information?

- ☐ *Ownership of copyright in music and lyrics*
- ☐ *Separate copyright in sound recordings*
- ☐ *How long does copyright last?*
- ☐ *Copyright symbols and notices*

(f) What does AJ need to do to get copyright for his songs?

- ☐ Have a written agreement with his friend.
- ☐ Write them down or record them.
- ☐ Apply to Copyright Licensing New Zealand.
- ☐ Include the © symbol and date on all of his lyrics.

QUESTION FIVE

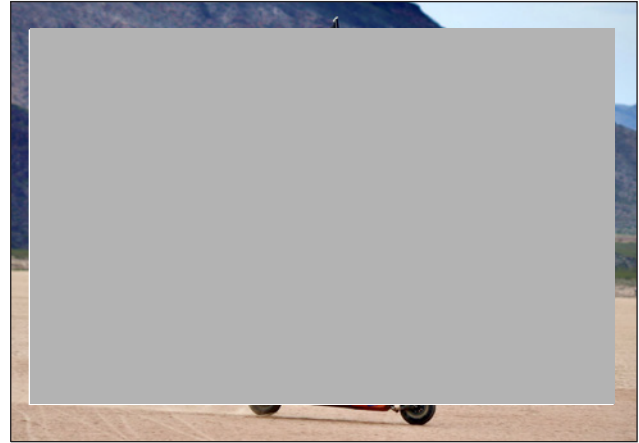
Read the information (below and on page 19) and select (✓) the best answer to all parts of the question on pages 20 and 21.

Blokarting

What is a Blokart?

A Blokart is a compact, three-wheeled land yacht designed for fast, wind-powered sailing on flat surfaces like beaches, car parks, or grass. It acts as a 'go-kart with a sail'. The Blokart is controlled by a hand-steer bar and a sail sheet rope.

The craft is capable of high speeds – reaching up to approximately 100 km / h in the right conditions. The Blokart model, including wheels, mast, and sail, weighs only 29 kg. It can easily be dismantled and packed into a carry-case for international competitions.



Shannon Fox sailing his Blokart at the 2024 Blokart World Championships in California

Who invented the Blokart?

The Blokart design was developed in 1999 by Paul Beckett in Tauranga, New Zealand. Paul's background in hang gliding and land sailing inspired him to build a serious wind-powered toy that was fun, fast, and compact.

By 2024, more than 16,000 Bolkarts had been manufactured and shipped around the world. As Beckett himself says, "Blokart has become a versatile pastime that allows the recreational rider to sail wherever the wind takes them. But it is also a chance for more ambitious racers to meet other sailors and compete internationally."

Blokart competition rules

1. Always use the safety belt, leg straps, helmet, gloves, shoes, and eye protection.
2. If you need a push start, don't get in the way of others who are moving.
3. When travelling towards another rider, always steer to the right.
4. Always give way to your right.
5. Keep well clear when overtaking others.
6. Do not make any sudden moves or turns when you are being overtaken.
7. Check behind you before making changes in direction.
8. Use hand signals when turning or stopping.
9. When turning around a marker, do not pass others on the inside.
10. When finished, secure your Blokart by turning it over on its side.

Blokart World Championship

The 2024 Blokart World Championship brought sailors from around the world to a dusty, dry lake in California, United States of America. Ninety-eight sailors competed in the event, ranging in age from 12 to 80 years old.

Steve and Shannon Fox, a father-and-son duo, were part of a 24-strong contingent from New Zealand. **The venue could not have been more different from home for this duo, who are more used to the pristine waters of Lake Taupō than the dusty, arid plains of Ivanpah Lake.**

Conditions were pretty tricky during competition, with little wind at times. However, on occasion, the wind whipped up so much dust that spectators couldn't even see the Bolkarts on the racecourse. Steve and Shannon, who both placed in the competition, look forward to the next Blokart championship in Wales.

(a) The Blokart competition rules have been put together to:

- ☐ ensure the Blokart moves as speedily as it can.
- ☐ minimise the risk of accidents and injury.
- ☐ safeguard the Blokart against potential damage.
- ☐ make sure the ride is as comfortable as possible.

(b) *The venue could not have been more different from home for this duo, who are more used to the **pristine** waters of Lake Taupō than the dusty, arid plains of Ivanpah Lake.*

Which word best replaces **pristine**?

- ☐ cool
- ☐ calm
- ☐ clean
- ☐ chilly

(c) The *Blokart World Championship* section was most likely written for New Zealanders:

- ☐ registering for the Wales championship.
- ☐ thinking about taking up a new sport.
- ☐ who know Steve and Shannon Fox.
- ☐ interested in sporting competitions.

(d) The most convincing evidence of the Blokart's global success is the:

- ☐ number of New Zealanders who are Blokart champions.
- ☐ number of Blokarts that have been produced and sold.
- ☐ different ages of people who enjoy Blokarting.
- ☐ different countries where Blokart competitions are held.

- (e) Some friends have won a Blokart in a competition.

Which section will help them know whether they can transport the Blokart home in their car?

- ☐ *What is a Blokart?*
- ☐ *Who invented the Blokart?*
- ☐ *Blokart competition rules*
- ☐ *Blokart World Championship*

- (f) All four sections of this text refer to the:

- ☐ wind speed as a vital factor.
- ☐ worldwide interest in Blokarting.
- ☐ skill requirements for success.
- ☐ competitive element of the sport.

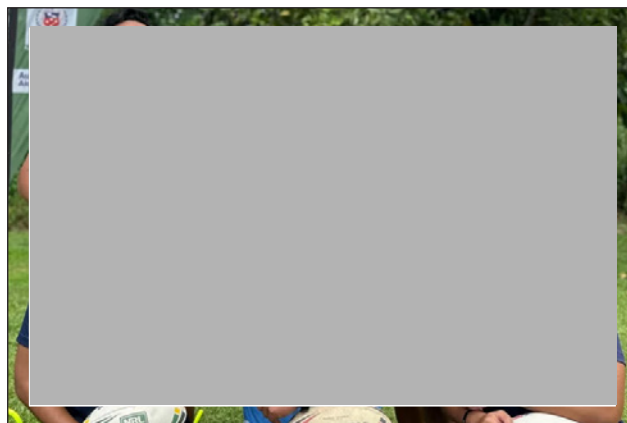
QUESTION SIX

Read the article (below and on page 23) and select (✓) the best answer to all parts of the question on pages 24 and 25.

Volunteer Service Abroad

Volunteer Service Abroad | Te Tūao Tāwāhi (VSA) has between 85 and 100 volunteers working in the Pacific at any one time. The volunteers work on projects in Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and the Cook Islands. The placements are generally for one year.

Eileen Dixon talks about being a volunteer in Samoa. She enjoyed volunteering so much that she returned to Samoa for a further seven months.



Eileen (top centre) with colleagues in Samoa

What did you do while you were in Samoa?

I worked with National Rugby League (NRL) Samoa as a Sports Development Assistant. I helped deliver their *League for Life* programme and shared the importance of making healthy choices, being active, and healthy eating, drinking, and sleeping habits. One of the NRL's goals is to actively grow the women's game, because rugby league has traditionally been a male-dominated sport. As a woman, I worked mainly with girls, helping to create a 'safe space' for those too shy to try a sport. I was able to be a role model for them.

What was your day-to-day volunteering life like?

Every day was different. During the school term, we headed out to primary and secondary schools and presented our programme. **This involved teaching the kids rugby league's fundamental movement and ball skills.** Women's rugby league is now one of the fastest-growing sports in the region, having been delivered to over 55,000 children in the Pacific so far. I also helped train the kids up for the end-of-term interschool competition. I took photos and videos, and created social media posts that helped spread important messages to the wider community.

What were the highlights of your time in Samoa?

Definitely engaging with the kids and being amongst their energy. From team chants to singing at the celebrations, Samoan culture and the spirit of these kids was so cool to be around! Also seeing the character development of the kids over time. A lot of them would start off shy, lacking skills and self-belief, then become confident leaders and team players who love the game. I also loved exploring Samoa's beautiful islands – the stunning beaches, magical waterfalls, and other gorgeous scenery.

What advice would you give to those considering volunteering?

I would say go for it! The work you do can have a great impact on the people you are with, and you also get the opportunity to experience a unique culture, explore beautiful islands, and try new things. For me, I finished university but did not know what I wanted to do career-wise. This assignment allowed me to explore a potential career path. I got to coach a different sport, work with a range of different ages, and learn new things from my workmates and NRL Samoa.

(a) The main purpose of this text is to:

- ☐ provide information about women's rugby league.
- ☐ explain the the variety of volunteering experiences available.
- ☐ show that volunteering can become an enjoyable career.
- ☐ describe a successful Volunteer Service Abroad placement.

(b) Readers are told that 55,000 children have been involved in the NRL's *League for Life* programme so far. This figure is given to:

- ☐ promote rugby league as the main sport in schools.
- ☐ convince other countries to join the programme.
- ☐ show the impact that the programme has had so far.
- ☐ persuade all sports to become part of the programme.

(c) *This involved teaching the kids rugby league's **fundamental** movement and ball skills.*

If a skill is **fundamental**, it is:

- ☐ supporting
- ☐ essential
- ☐ specialised
- ☐ energising

(d) The most likely reason that Eileen was chosen to be interviewed by VSA is because she:

- ☐ had such a positive experience volunteering in Samoa.
- ☐ helped develop National Rugby League (NRL) in Samoa.
- ☐ was a great female role model for young Samoan girls.
- ☐ delivered the *League for Life* programme to Samoan children.

(e) Eileen's answer to which question helps a reader best understand why she became a VSA volunteer:

- ☐ What did you do while you were in Samoa?
- ☐ What was your day-to-day volunteering life like?
- ☐ What were the highlights of your time in Samoa?
- ☐ What advice would you give to those considering volunteering?

(f) What do we learn from Eileen about the *League for Life* programme?

- ☐ It develops programmes just for young female students.
- ☐ It encourages parents to teach the programmes.
- ☐ It uses sports skills as a way for students to become healthier.
- ☐ It teaches chants and songs for local cultural celebrations.

Acknowledgements

Material from the following sources has been adapted for use in this assessment:

Question One

David Hill, Phoebe Morris (illus.), *Hero of the Sea: Sir Peter Blake's Mighty Ocean Quests*. (New Zealand: Puffin, 2018).
www.blakenz.org/about-us/; www.blakenz.org/2020/03/18/red-socks-black-magic

Question Two

www.eliserosecrochet.com/how-to-spot-fake-ai-crochet-so-you-dont-get-scammed; banner, stock.adobe.com/523072139,
stock.adobe.com/696943533; cartoon people, stock.adobe.com/394158019

Question Three

www.treehugger.com/amazing-antics-ants-4868541; (image): www.flickr.com/photos/rainforests/6135682798/sizes/l

Question Four

www.tawhia.nz/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Songwriters-Composers.pdf; www.copyright.co.nz/about

Question Five

www.nzherald.co.nz/waikato-news/news/blokart-pilots-take-on-the-world-at-las-vegas/L6JVGHVNL5FPTDCWXMxCNS74J4/; www.blokart.com/about/about-us

Question Six

www.vsa.org.nz/volunteer/faqs; (image): www.vsa.org.nz/what-we-do/news-and-hub/sharing-the-joy-of-sport

