

## Assessment Report

# New Zealand Scholarship Religious Studies 2023

## Performance standard 93603

### General commentary

The topic for 2023 proved to be a challenging area for study. Candidates worked hard at providing quotes from primary sources, but struggled to move from narrative to analysis, which is required at this level.

Question One seemed to be more challenging than Question Two, as responses to the former were less common at the Outstanding level. Some candidates got confused over the two questions; they often combined both questions into their response, sometimes beginning by answering one question and then moving on to answer the other question as well.

There was a broad range of engagement with the content of Psychology of Religion. Candidates can improve by being more focused on what is particularly being asked of them within the question.

### Report on performance standard

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

- responded to the question with a sustained level of clarity and analysis
- included a range of thoughtful and unique examples to develop arguments
- showed a nuanced and deliberate engagement with the field of the psychology of religion
- used essay conventions that enabled candidates to write their response with flair, but often in a concise manner.

Candidates who were awarded **Scholarship** commonly:

- developed an argument that responded to the focus of the question
- analysed the impact of the psychology of religion in the context of religious studies
- put forward an argument that was consistent across the whole response
- presented unique and interesting conclusions
- showed a detailed understanding of the positions and theories of psychologists relevant to this field
- used essay conventions and wrote with a logical flow.

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

- failed to provide an appropriate level of clarity in their writing
- showed a simplistic understanding of the required content material
- had intrusive factual errors about the religion or the psychology of religion
- failed to address the question that was asked, or mixed the two questions up in their response.