



National Certificate of Educational Achievement
TAUMATA MĀTAURANGA Ā-MOTU KUA TĀEA

Exemplar for Internal Achievement Standard

Religious Education Level 3

This exemplar supports assessment against:

Achievement Standard 90825

Analyse a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand

An annotated exemplar is an extract of student evidence, with a commentary, to explain key aspects of the standard. It assists teachers to make assessment judgements at the grade boundaries.

New Zealand Qualifications Authority

To support internal assessment

	Grade Boundary: Low Excellence
1.	<p>For Excellence, the student needs to analyse, with perception, a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>This involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • critically evaluating a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand • drawing conclusions that address the wider implications arising from the analysis. <p>The student has analysed the Plymouth Brethren Christian Church (PBCC) as a religious tradition in Aotearoa New Zealand (1).</p> <p>The student has considered in detail some essential features of the PBCC (also known as Exclusive Brethren), such as their beliefs regarding the education of children, the Bible and technology (2).</p> <p>The student has critically evaluated the PBCC (Exclusive Brethren) as a religious tradition (3).</p> <p>The student has identified a wider personal implication arising from the analysis (4).</p> <p>For a more secure Excellence, the student could further analyse, with perception, how the beliefs or principles of the PBCC have affected their development within Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>For example, the student could provide evidence from the teachings of the PBCC regarding the Doctrine of Separation, the importance of preaching the Gospel and caring for others through charitable works. Conclusions could then be drawn as to how these teachings have possible wider social, historical, geographical, political or personal implications.</p>

The world has many different religions, most popular among which is the Christian religion with over two billion followers, about half of whom are Catholic. One relatively small evangelical close-knit Christian group is the Brethren consisting of the Open Brethren and the Exclusive Brethren.

The Exclusive Brethren, who separated from the Open Brethren in 1848, adhere to a rigid code of practice that among other things restricts the contact their members can have with those outside their group. The Open Brethren believe that their individual churches should have freedom in their dealings with others. The two groups remain separate and do not hold joint events.

Exclusive Brethren was originally the name given to the group by the popular press, although today for reasons of consistency, legality, and to differentiate themselves from other groups they now prefer to be called by what they describe as their historic name, the "Plymouth Brethren Christian Church" or "PBCC" for short. To this end, their official global website, www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/ was established in 2012.

Worldwide there are some 50,000 Exclusive Brethren located in France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Denmark, Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, North and South America, UK, Australia and New Zealand. In New Zealand there are at present at least 6,000 Exclusive Brethren, which is about three times their estimated numbers in 2006, although exact figures are not available. The majority of local Exclusive Brethren live in Wellington's northern corridor.

Although a discrete group, or perhaps better described as reclusive and elusive, the Exclusive Brethren gained uncanny headlines in New Zealand over their controversial role in the 2005 General Election when they ran a campaign opposing the Labour government and funding an anti-government pamphlet drop.

Presumably, they were attempting to achieve economic conditions for their congregation of mainly business people.

The Wellington Exclusive Brethren has a growing congregation of over 300 members who at present use temporary premises in Linden as their Church. It fits the description of their typical church with its frosted windows, high security fence and no signage on the premises.

Exclusive Brethren children attend Plymouth Brethren Christian Westmount schools. The local Johnsonville School (Decile 8) has about 100 students from Year 3 to 13. Education is conducted as per the New Zealand curriculum. Their schools get very good reports. Parents take a very active interest in the education of their children. Most have no tertiary education and typically work for one of the many small businesses run by Exclusive Brethren members. These businesses are well regarded and their owners are seen as fair, honest and reliable.

While their schools are registered as Independent Schools with a Special Religious Character, no formal religious observances or services are held at the school. Current affairs and Bible Studies programmes are the responsibility of the community. This is very interesting as the students are sitting in classes where they could be receiving religious instruction. However, the Special Character will permeate everything within the school.

Exclusive Brethren regard the Darby translation of the Bible as the absolute, infallible, inspired word of God. It defines their beliefs, morality and code of conduct. It is their essential companion and authoritative guide. From their earliest childhood, members are read and taught Bible stories. This is the only permitted book within the household as it contains the word of God. Other reading material is supplied in the form of pamphlets which are to be bought monthly. These generally contain doctrine, based around Biblical passages (<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Salient33101970-t1-body-d28.html>)

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Exclusive Brethren largely shun the “conduits of evil communications” such as television, radio and the internet. This, however, cuts them off from the real world and means that they receive a particular version of what the outside world is.

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Exclusive Brethren separate themselves from others due to their belief that the world is a place of wickedness and mostly restrict their social activities to interactions with other Exclusive Brethren. They congregate every Sunday in their meeting rooms to celebrate the Lord’s Supper and to preach the Gospel. Meeting places are surrounded by high fences and locked gates that are locked at all times except for access to meetings. They are also locked during meetings. They also use security guards on occasions.

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They follow a rigid code of conduct based strictly on the Bible, with a firm moral framework focused on the family unit. They are encouraged to marry early, avoid contraception and believe in strong family values and relationships. They value the extended family and prefer their ageing members to remain in their own homes.

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The Exclusive Brethren demonstrate some cult-like characteristics such as totalitarian control of their members’ behaviour and autocratic leadership where the leader is regarded as the supreme authority. When a member is “under discipline” they are typically not permitted to take part in the Lord’s Supper and occasionally they may be asked to leave the Church.

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In my opinion, their growth should not be of concern to mainstream religions other than they do make it hard for members to leave the group and use intimidation or threats to keep members. Anyone leaving the Exclusives is regarded as serious, which the sect does its best to prevent. They attempt to prevent this by holding long sermons warning of the dangers of the world.

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I have noticed that the Exclusive Brethren maintain that their ex-members are usually dismissed as disgruntled or envious or immoral people with an axe to grind. This may be true, but if these ex-members consistently tell the same story, their stories must have some truth.

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	Grade Boundary: High Merit
2.	<p>For Merit, the student needs to analyse, in depth, a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>This involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussing factors that influenced a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand • drawing conclusions supported by a range of evidence. <p>The student has analysed the PBCC (Exclusive Brethren) as a religious tradition in Aotearoa New Zealand (1).</p> <p>The student has discussed factors that influence the PBCC as a religious tradition, such as their involvement in the political system and code of conduct (2).</p> <p>The student has drawn some conclusions about the PBCC as a religious tradition in Aotearoa New Zealand, supported by a range of evidence (3).</p> <p>To reach Excellence, the student could provide a critical evaluation of the beliefs of the PBCC and analyse how these beliefs have affected the growth of PBCC within Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>For example, the student could provide further evidence from teachings of the PBCC regarding the Doctrine of Separation, how they meet and conduct worship, using <i>Living Our Beliefs: The Current Way of Life of the Plymouth Brethren</i>.</p> <p>In addition, they could draw conclusions as to how the practice and teachings of the PBCC have at least two wider social, historical, geographical, political or personal implications in Aotearoa New Zealand.</p>

The Exclusive Brethren who separated from the Open Brethren in 1848 and adhere to a rigid code of practice that among other things restricts the contact their members can have with those outside their group. The Open Brethren believe that their individual churches should have freedom in their dealings with others. The two groups remain separate and do not hold joint events.

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Exclusive Brethren was originally the name given the group by the popular press, although today for reasons of consistency, legality, and to differentiate themselves from other groups they now prefer to be called by what they describe as their historic name, the "Plymouth Brethren Christian Church" or "PBCC" for short. To this end, their official global website, www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/ was established in 2012.

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Worldwide there are some 50,000 Exclusive Brethren located in France, Germany, Spain, Italy, Denmark, Holland, Switzerland, Sweden, North and South America, UK, Australia and New Zealand. In New Zealand there are at present at least 6,000 Exclusive Brethren, which is about three times their estimated numbers in 2006, although exact figures are not available. The majority of local Exclusive Brethren live in Wellington's northern corridor.

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They are often seen as a discrete group, or perhaps better described as reclusive and elusive. The group did make the headlines in New Zealand with their controversial role in the 2005 General Election. They ran a campaign opposing the Labour government and funding an anti-government pamphlet drop. This could be because they were attempting to achieve economic conditions for their congregation of mainly business people.

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The Wellington Exclusive Brethren has a growing congregation of over 300 members who at present use temporary premises in Linden as their Church. It fits the description of their typical church with its frosted windows, high security fence and no signage on the premises.

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Exclusive Brethren see the Darby translation of the Bible as the absolute, infallible, inspired word of God. It defines their beliefs, morality and code of conduct. It is their essential companion and authoritative guide. From their earliest childhood, members are read and taught Bible stories from this Bible version. This is the only permitted book within the household as it contains the word of God. Other reading material is supplied in form of pamphlets which are to be bought monthly. These generally contain doctrine, based around Biblical passages (<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Salient33101970-t1-body-d28.html>)

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They follow a rigid code of conduct based strictly on the Bible, with a firm moral framework focused on the family unit. They are encouraged to marry early, avoid contraception and believe in strong family values and relationships. They value the extended family and prefer their ageing members to remain in their own homes. The family uses the Bible as a source of guidance and lessons are taken from it in how to live a family life www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/

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Exclusive Brethren largely shun the "conduits of evil communications" such as television, radio and the internet. This, however, cuts them off from the real world. They also separate themselves from others

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due to their belief that the world is a place of wickedness and mostly restrict their social activities to interactions with other Exclusive Brethren. They congregate every Sunday in their meeting rooms to celebrate the Lord's Supper and to preach the Gospel. Meeting places are surrounded by high fences and locked gates that are locked at all times except for access to meetings. They are also locked during meetings. They also use security guards on occasions. This could be because they fear outsiders coming in to their meetings without permission.

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The Exclusive Brethren seem to show some cult-like characteristics such as totalitarian control of their members' behaviour and autocratic leadership where the leader is regarded as the supreme authority. When a member is "under discipline" they are not allowed to take part in the Lord's Supper and they may be asked to leave the Church. This could be to stop them encouraging others to think about the way things are done in the Exclusive Brethren.

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	Grade Boundary: Low Merit
3.	<p>For Merit, the student needs to analyse, in depth, a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>This involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussing factors that influenced a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand • drawing conclusions supported by a range of evidence. <p>The student has analysed the PBCC (Exclusive Brethren) as a religious tradition in Aotearoa New Zealand (1).</p> <p>The student has discussed some factors that influence the PBCC as a religious tradition, such as parental involvement in education and the use of the Darby Bible (2).</p> <p>The student has drawn some conclusions about the PBCC as a religious tradition in Aotearoa New Zealand, supported by a range of evidence (3).</p> <p>For a more secure Merit, the student could provide further factors that have influenced the beliefs of the PBCC and analyse how these have affected the growth of PBCC within Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>Additionally, the student could provide further evidence from teachings of the PBCC regarding their understanding of the concept of family and fellowship, using <i>Living Our Beliefs: The Current Way of Life of the Plymouth Brethren</i>.</p>

The Exclusive Brethren separated from the Open Brethren in 1848 and follow a rigid code of practice that among other things restricts the contact their members can have with those outside their group. The Open Brethren believe that their individual churches should have freedom in their dealings with others. The two groups remain separate and do not hold joint events.

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There are about 6,000 Exclusive Brethren living in New Zealand at the moment, which is about three times their estimated numbers in 2006, although exact figures are not available. The majority of local Exclusive Brethren live in Wellington's northern corridor.

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The Wellington Exclusive Brethren has a growing congregation of over 300 members, using temporary premises in Linden as their Church. The building fits the description of their typical church with its frosted windows, high security fence and no signage on the premises to identify it as a Brethren church.

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Exclusive Brethren children attend Plymouth Brethren Christian Westmount schools. The local Johnsonville School (Decile 8) has about 100 students from Year 3 to 13. Education is conducted as per the New Zealand curriculum. Their schools get very good reports. Parents take a very active interest in the education of their children showing that they are like all parents who consider the education of their children as being very important. The Exclusive Brethren treat girls and boys equally at their schools. They "focus on recruiting and retaining quality teachers and offer an attractive package with competitive remuneration, good student discipline, proven academic performance and small class sizes" (www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/).

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Exclusive Brethren regard the Darby translation of the Bible as the absolute, infallible, inspired word of God. It defines their beliefs, morality and code of conduct. It is their essential companion and authoritative guide. From their earliest childhood, members are read and taught Bible stories. This Bible is used as it is 'claimed to be a more correct and up to date version than the 1611 Authorised Version' (<http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-Salient33101970-t1-body-d28.html>)

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Exclusive Brethren largely shun the "conduits of evil communications" such as television, radio and the internet. This, however, cuts them off from the real world. It seems a very strange thing to do, as they will have problems then relating to the world, especially as it becomes more involved with technology. Exclusive Brethren separate themselves from others due to their belief that the world is a place of wickedness and mostly restrict their social activities to interactions with other Exclusive Brethren. This could lead to a less developed understanding of how to relate to non-Exclusive Brethren people.

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	Grade Boundary: High Achieved
4.	<p>For Achieved, the student needs to analyse a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>This involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considering, in detail, a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand, and breaking it down into components or essential features • drawing conclusions about the religious tradition(s), supported by evidence. <p>The student has considered, in detail, essential features of the PBCC (Exclusive Brethren) as a religious tradition in Aotearoa New Zealand (1).</p> <p>The student has drawn conclusions of the PBCC as a religious tradition in Aotearoa New Zealand, supported by evidence from one source (2).</p> <p>To reach Merit, the student could provide an in-depth analysis of factors that influence the PBCC as a religious tradition, such as the Doctrine of Separation or how, why and where they worship, using <i>Living Our Beliefs: The Current Way of Life of the Plymouth Brethren</i> and other authoritative sources.</p>

The Exclusive Brethren who separated from the Open Brethren in 1848 and adhere to a rigid code of practice that among other things restricts the contact their members can have with those outside their group. The Open Brethren believe that their individual churches should have freedom in their dealings with others. The two groups remain separate and do not hold joint events.
www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/

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Worldwide there are some 50,000 Exclusive Brethren. In New Zealand there are at present at least 6,000 Exclusive Brethren. The Wellington Exclusive Brethren has over 300 members who at present use temporary premises in Linden as their Church www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/.

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This means that they are not a large Christian group within Aotearoa New Zealand. The premises has a high security fence and no signage, which could mean they are worried about what others think of them.

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Exclusive Brethren children attend Westmount schools. The Johnsonville School has about 100 students. Education is conducted as per the New Zealand curriculum. Exclusive Brethren use the Darby translation of the Bible as the absolute guide for everything they do. From their earliest childhood, members are read and taught Bible stories.

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Exclusive Brethren are banned from watching television, listening to the radio and using the internet. This, however, cuts them off from the real world.

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Exclusive Brethren separate themselves from others because the rest of the world is wicked which does not seem to be a sensible thing to do as they have to live in this world.

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They congregate every Sunday in their meeting rooms to celebrate the Lord's Supper and to preach the Gospel.

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They follow a rigid code of conduct based strictly on the Bible, with a firm moral framework focused on the family unit. They prefer their ageing members to remain in their own homes.

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The Exclusive Brethren have tight control of their members' behaviour and the leader is regarded as the supreme authority. When a member is "under discipline" they are typically not permitted to take part in the Lord's Supper and occasionally they may be asked to leave the Church.

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	Grade Boundary: Low Achieved
5.	<p>For Achieved, the student needs to analyse a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>This involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considering, in detail, a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand, and breaking it down into components or essential features • drawing conclusions about the religious tradition(s), supported by evidence. <p>The student has analysed the PBCC (Exclusive Brethren) as a religious tradition in Aotearoa New Zealand, supported by evidence from one source (1).</p> <p>The student has drawn a conclusion about the PBCC as a religious tradition in Aotearoa New Zealand (2).</p> <p>For a more secure Achieved, the student could analyse other essential features that influence the PBCC as a religious tradition, such as their involvement in the political system and code of conduct.</p> <p>Additionally, the student could draw and support conclusions with evidence from teachings of the PBCC, such as the Doctrine of Separation, and the objective of members being able to own their own homes, using <i>Living Our Beliefs: The Current Way of Life of the Plymouth Brethren</i> and other authoritative sources within the religious tradition.</p>

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www.plymouthbrethrenchristianchurch.org/

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In New Zealand there are at present at least 6,000 Exclusive Brethren. The Wellington Exclusive Brethren has over 300 members who at present use temporary premises in Linden as their Church.

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Exclusive Brethren children attend Westmount schools. The Johnsonville School has about 100 students. Education is conducted as per the New Zealand curriculum.

Exclusive Brethren use the Darby translation of the Bible as the absolute guide for everything they do. From their earliest childhood, members are read and taught Bible stories.

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Exclusive Brethren are banned from watching television, listening to the radio and using the internet. This, however, cuts them off from the real world, this is not sensible as the people still have to be part of the world in which they find themselves.

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They congregate every Sunday in their meeting rooms to celebrate the Lord's Supper and to preach the Gospel. In my opinion, the Exclusive Brethren do not pose a threat to mainstream religions other than they do make it hard for members to leave the group and use threats to keep members.

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	Grade Boundary: High Not Achieved
6.	<p>For Achieved, the student needs to analyse a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand.</p> <p>This involves:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• considering, in detail, a religious tradition(s) in Aotearoa New Zealand, and breaking it down into components or essential features• drawing conclusions about the religious tradition(s), supported by evidence. <p>The student has partially analysed the PBCC (Exclusive Brethren) as a religious tradition in Aotearoa New Zealand (1).</p> <p>To reach Achieved, the student could provide more detail of essential features of the PBCC beliefs, such as considering education of their children to be important, the importance of preaching the Gospel, and their Rapid Relief Team and its work.</p> <p>In addition, the student could draw conclusions and support them with evidence from authoritative sources within the religious tradition.</p>

The Exclusive Brethren who separated from the Open Brethren in 1848 and adhere to a rigid code of practice that among other things restricts the contact their members can have with those outside their group. The Wellington Exclusive Brethren has over 300 members who at present use temporary premises in Linden as their Church. It has a high security fence and no signage on the premises. Exclusive Brethren children attend Westmount schools. The Johnsonville School has about 100 students. Education is conducted as per the New Zealand curriculum.

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Exclusive Brethren are banned from watching television, listening to the radio and using the internet. Exclusive Brethren separate themselves from others because the rest of the world is wicked. They congregate every Sunday in their meeting rooms to celebrate the Lord's Supper and to preach the Gospel. The Exclusive Brethren have tight control of their members' behaviour and the leader is regarded as the supreme authority.

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