



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

## **Exemplar for Internal Achievement Standard Social Studies**

This exemplar supports assessment against:

**Achievement Standard**

**91280**

**Conduct a reflective social inquiry**

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

New Zealand Qualifications Authority

To support internal assessment

Grade: Achieved

For Achieved, the student needs to conduct a reflective social inquiry.

This involves deciding on a clear focus, developing focus questions, and gathering information and background ideas that enable them to describe people's points of view, values, and perspectives in relation to the inquiry focus. To achieve, the student must also reflect on and evaluate the understandings they develop throughout the inquiry.

The student has identified a clear focus: the Treaty Principles Bill. They have written purposeful focus questions that support exploring differing viewpoints, values, and perspectives. To meet the requirement for gathering information and background ideas, the student lists relevant sources and provides a succinct background paragraph. The depth of specific quotations and detail used in their findings further demonstrates active information gathering.

Two distinct points of view are described: David Seymour's position in support of the bill and Hana Rawhiti Maipi Clarke's position in opposition. Each is supported with appropriate evidence, including direct quotations and references to actions taken. The student also identifies the perspectives (libertarian and indigenous) and values underpinning these viewpoints (libertarian and indigenous), as required by the standard.

The student reflects on and evaluates their understandings by addressing the overarching inquiry question: "How do differing perspectives and responses to legislation reflect ideas of rights, responsibilities, and social justice in Aotearoa New Zealand?" Conclusions clearly arise from the evidence they have gathered and considered. They also comment on source reliability. They propose improvements, including adding kaupapa Māori sources and legal experts and broadening their historical understanding. This shows an awareness of how reliability and source selection can affect conclusions.

For Merit, the student must explain the perspectives, values, and viewpoints by making the relationships between them explicit. In practice, this means showing how a perspective informs values and how those values shape the person's viewpoint on the issue. For example, Hana Rawhiti Maipi Clarke's indigenous perspective centres on whakapapa, tikanga, and mana motuhake. These values lead her to see Te Tiriti as a living, relational agreement that protects collective rights and shared authority. This has shaped her viewpoint that the bill threatens Māori self-determination and should be opposed, which in turn influenced her actions.

**Inquiry Focus: Treaty Principles Bill**

**Overarching Question:** How do differing perspectives and responses to legislation reflect ideas of rights, responsibilities, and social justice in Aotearoa New Zealand?

**Part 1: Planning the Inquiry**

- **Focus Questions:**
  - What is the perspective, viewpoint and values of those who support the Treaty Principles Bill?
  - What are the perspectives, viewpoints and values of those who opposed the Treaty Principles Bill?
  - How have people or groups exercised the right to social action in response to the Bill?

**Sources I will use:**

- Radio New Zealand. (2024). *Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership a misinterpretation, David Seymour believes*. RNZ. <https://www.mz.co.nz/news/political/507272/te-tiriti-o-waitangi-partnership-a-misinterpretation-david-seymour-believes>
- The Post. (2024). *Treaty principles debate: David Seymour rules supporting out citizens-initiated*. The Post. <https://www.thepost.co.nz/politics/350444565/treaty-principles-debate-david-seymour-rules-supporting-out-citizens-initiated>
- NZ Herald. (2024). *ACT leader David Seymour: Why a conversation on Te Tiriti o Waitangi is important for our nation*. NZ Herald. <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/kahu/act-leader-david-seymour-why-a-conversation-on-te-tiriti-o-waitangi-is-important-for-our-nation/IY4IMUEBEJDOXKG3HAHUJS3HAY/>
- 1News. (2024). *'I'd do it again and again': Hana Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke talks to John Campbell*. 1News. <https://www.1news.co.nz/2024/12/07/id-do-it-again-and-again-hana-rawhiti-maipi-clarke-talks-to-john-campbell/>
- Māori Party. *Hana Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke*. Māori Party. [https://www.maoriparty.org.nz/hana\\_rawhiti\\_maipi\\_clarke](https://www.maoriparty.org.nz/hana_rawhiti_maipi_clarke)
- YouTube. (2024). *"David Seymour lays down the Treaty Principles Bill in Parliament"* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QzqePTJ9RKw>

**Background to the Issue:**

Thousands rallied to the other side of Aotearoa (New Zealand) in protest called by Te Pāti Māori (The Māori Party) as a new conservative government took office in December. Rally organisers have called the movement "Toitu Te Tiriti", referring to the need to uphold and enhance Te Tiriti o Waitangi (The Treaty of Waitangi) against the new government's racist attacks. The proposed Treaty Principles Bill seeks to redefine the principles of Te Tiriti in law, replacing long-standing interpretations that many say undermines Māori rights and partnership. This bill is at the heart of the Toitu Te Tiriti campaign, which calls on people to resist changes that would change the Treaty's role as a foundation document for New Zealand.

**Part 2: The Findings**

**What is the perspective, viewpoint and values of those who support the Treaty Principles Bill?**

## David Seymour

David Seymour talks about seeking equality and universal human rights when discussing the Toitū Te Tiriti campaign and the Treaty Principles Bill. “It is a document that establishes New Zealand as a country, where in Article 1 the government has the right to govern, in Article 2 we each have the right to tino rangatiratanga—the right to flourish in self-chosen ways—and in Article 3 we all have ngā tikanga katoa rite tahi, or the same.” David Seymour told *Midday Report* he believed Te Tiriti o Waitangi was a founding document, but the idea that it is a partnership is based on a misinterpretation. He has been a strong advocate for his Treaty Principles Bill, which aims to reinterpret the principles of Te Tiriti in a way that emphasises equality under the law and individual rights. He states, “We need a national conversation. Are there two classes of New Zealanders, or are we all equal before the law?” Seymour argues that the Treaty does not establish a partnership between Māori and the Crown but instead provides a framework for governance and individual rights. This stance has led to debates and discussions, including a notable one with Ngāti Toa chief executive Helmut Modlik, where Seymour defended his interpretation of the Treaty as a “beautiful document” that has been misinterpreted over time. His Bill has faced criticism for potentially undermining Māori self-determination and cultural preservation, but Seymour maintains that his approach seeks to clarify the Treaty’s principles for the benefit of all New Zealanders. He has said, “The Bill emphasises the universal human rights that appear throughout Te Tiriti and invites an open debate on it.” Seymour values equality before the law and universal human rights. His views on the Toitū Te Tiriti campaign reflect ideologies of libertarianism (which ACT is known for) because they believe in individual autonomy and rights.

## What is the perspective, viewpoint and values of those who oppose the Treaty Principles Bill?

### Hana-Rāwhiti Maipi-Clarke

Hana-Rāwhiti Maipi-Clarke is the youngest Member of Parliament representing Te Pāti Māori. Hana-Rāwhiti’s view on the Treaty Principles Bill and the Toitū Te Tiriti campaign reflects an indigenous perspective and traditions from the Aotearoa East Coast, focused on raising the hopes and voices of hapū and iwi within their place. Her perspective centres on preserving the integrity of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and safeguarding Māori rights. Central values are whakapapa (genealogy), tikanga, and mana motuhake. She has been a vocal supporter of Te Tiriti many times. She has stated that Te Tiriti “should unite rather than divide people” and has demonstrated her commitment to speaking out against ACT’s Treaty Principles Bill by showing unwavering support for the Toitū Te Tiriti campaign, which opposes the Bill. In 2024 when she performed a haka inside Parliament to protest against a proposed bill she felt would strip rights from Māori. As the House was casting votes, Maipi-Clarke rose to deliver her party’s opposition and initiated the “Ka Mate” haka, a traditional Māori dance expressing challenge. During this demonstration, she tore a copy of the bill and cast the pieces to the floor, symbolising her strong feelings against the proposed legislation.

Her actions prompted immediate responses. First, there was a Parliamentary Suspension. Speaker of the House Gerry Brownlee suspended the parliamentary session for approximately 20 minutes due to the disruption. Secondly, Maipi-Clarke was “named” by the Speaker - a formal reprimand - leading to her suspension from Parliament for 24 hours. This penalty barred her from participating in debates, voting and attending committee meetings during that period. Thirdly, Maipi-Clarke, along with fellow Te Pāti Māori co-leaders Debbie Ngarewa-Packer and Rawiri Waititi and Labour MP Peeni Henare, were referred to Parliament’s Privileges Committee for their involvement in the protest. In a December 2024 interview, Maipi-Clarke reflected on her protest in Parliament, stating, “I’d do it again and again.” She emphasised that her actions were a response to the perceived threat the Bill posed to Māori sovereignty and the principles of the Treaty.

## How have people or groups exercised the right to social action in response to the Bill?

People and groups in New Zealand have actively exercised their rights through various forms of social

action in relation to Toitu Te Tiriti particularly in response to government policies perceived as undermining Maori rights and the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

For people who opposed the bill, the main form of protest has been the hikoi, a traditional Maori march. Activists have organised hikoi to raise awareness and demonstrate unity against government actions perceived as attacks on Maori rights. The hikoi was aimed to draw attention to the implications of the Treaty principles bill, which many viewed as a threat to Maori sovereignty. The hikoi saw a significant turnout, with estimates of around 42,000 participants joining the final march to parliament. The march went through different towns across the north island, gathering momentum and support as it progressed. Major stops included Auckland and Rotorua where the number of participants doubled at each location. The end of the hikoi was at a large gathering in Wellington, where participants were involved in cultural performances, speeches and solidarity activities, showing their support for the cause. This protest brought together lots of people around New Zealand, including Tangata Whenua, Tangata Moana and Tauwiwi.

### **Part 3: Key Understandings and Evaluation**

#### **Key Understandings:**

In relation to the big inquiry question, "How do differing perspectives and responses to legislation reflect ideas of rights, responsibilities in Aotearoa New Zealand," I have learnt that people hold very different views on the Treaty, which can lead to strong and active responses such as creating a bill or organising a hikoi. Some political parties and individuals oppose the Treaty Principles Bill, claiming it causes division, while others argue it promotes justice for Māori and holds the government to account. I have also learnt that the Toitū Te Tiriti campaign emerged as a direct response to the Bill proposed by the ACT Party, which many view as a threat to Māori rights and sovereignty. Through peaceful protest, the campaign united thousands of people in honouring the Treaty.

Researching the Bill and the responses from different groups helped me understand that the campaign not only supported Māori in standing their ground and fighting for their rights but also inspired indigenous people globally. The campaign gained international attention after Hana-Rāwhiti tore up the Bill, which motivated others around the world to protest for their rights and advocate for their communities. Hana-Rawhiti Maipi-Clarke was also listed by Time magazine as one of "the world's most influential rising stars". This was unexpected for me because New Zealand is not widely known internationally, so learning that our people inspired global action for equality and rights makes me proud to live in a country where people fight strongly for justice.

#### **How reliable are your sources?**

I explored different perspectives from people like David Seymour and Hana-Rāwhiti, which showed how views on the Treaty can differ great. I also think that a strength was that I used reliable websites. By this, I mean that they were all from reputable news agency which have trained journalist doing the research. This included 1News, RNZ, The Post and NZ Herald. These all uphold journalistic standards and ethics. Additionally, these sources were helpful as many directly cited or included clips from the key primary sources – which provided me with direct quote of the viewpoints of Seymour and Maipi-Clarke. Watching the Youtube Clip of Seymour talking in parliament was also helpful, as it meant that none of the information was selected out for a particular purpose and I got to see the whole speech. However, this was published by the ACT website, so I need to be mindful that this clearly only shows his views. However, for the purposes of this inquiry – that is ok, as I had other sources to show the other side of the debate.

#### **What are the weaknesses of your inquiry? What would you do to improve your inquiry process next time? How would this improve your inquiry?**

One weakness is that I relied on a limited range of sources and didn't include much variety in the information I found. Most of my evidence came from news articles or quotes, and I could have looked into academic articles or Māori sources to deepen my understanding. I also think I could have added more historical context about Te Tiriti o Waitangi to explain why people feel so strongly about protecting it today. This would have helped to develop my understanding and perhaps better connect it to global issues where other indigenous rights were being impacted.

Next time, I would use a wider range of sources, especially Māori voices and kaupapa Māori websites, to make sure my information is accurate and respectful. It could have also been useful to look at a legal perspective from experts in the field, such as Sir Geoffry Palmer or academics like Professor Dean Knight. This would improve my inquiry because I would have a broader and deeper base of information to consider for my assessment and also may have provided a more neutral analysis on the matter, rather than one that was based on race.

Grade: Merit

For Merit, the student needs to conduct a reflective social inquiry in depth.

In addition to meeting the Achieved criteria, this requires explaining the points of view, values, and perspectives that relate to the focus of the inquiry.

The Achieved criteria are clearly met. Appropriate focus questions that enable exploration of perspectives, viewpoints, and values have been developed. Evidence of the requirements to gather relevant background information is seen through a list of possible sources and collected survey data. Additionally, throughout the response, the use of specific data and quotes reflects curriculum level 7 expectations, providing further evidence for this criterion. The evaluation demonstrates reflection on the understandings developed during the inquiry by addressing the overarching question of whether New Zealand should adopt a four-day working week, assessing the reliability of sources, and providing a specific, evidence-based conclusion.

The student has discussed two key perspectives—economic and health—and the values associated with each as they relate to the four-day working week. These perspectives are clearly connected to the viewpoints of various individuals. This meets the threshold for an explanation, as the student not only identifies perspectives and values but also links them to individuals' experiences and beliefs, explaining how and why these shape their positions on the issue.

To reach Excellence, the student would need to make justified generalisations that extend beyond the immediate context of their inquiry. This involves moving past a descriptive account of how other countries view the issue and instead explaining the underlying perspectives and values shaping those views, as well as the significance of similarities and differences between contexts.

For example, they could examine how economic and health perspectives influence values and attitudes in Japan, where cultural expectations around work and productivity differ significantly from those in New Zealand, including the emergence of 'karōshi' (death from overwork) as a social issue. This level of analysis would enable them to make justified generalisations about how cultural and historical factors shape a society's approach to the four-day working week.

Merit

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**Focus:** Should NZ adapt to a 4-day working week?**Research Questions**

1. What are the positive impacts of adopting to a four-day working week?
2. What are the negative impacts of adopting to a four-day working week?
3. What are the values and viewpoints of people to a four-day working week from a health perspective?
4. What are the values and viewpoints of people to a four-day working week from an economic perspective?

**Source I will use:**

[Kiwis back four-day working week - new poll \(1news.co.nz\)](#)  
[4-Day Work Week - New Zealand Workplaces | BucketLaw](#)  
[Making the four-day week work: 'You've got to move to the future' | RNZ News](#)  
[Kiwi businessman who pitched four-day week starts global petition \(1news.co.nz\)](#)  
[The New Zealander trying to revolutionise the working week: 'It's a rational business decision' | Work & careers | The Guardian](#)  
[Unilever to try out four-day working week in New Zealand | Reuters](#)  
[New study shows 4-day week to be a success | World Economic Forum \(weforum.org\)](#)  
[Unilever NZ to trial four-day work week at full pay | Unilever](#)  
[FOCUS: Japan Inc. turns to 4-day workweek to offer flexibility to employees \(kyodonews.net\)](#)  
[4 Day Work Week Companies in the Netherlands - 4dayweek.io \(2023\)](#)

**Link to our survey:**

[4 Day Working Week Survey - Google Forms](#)

*[The student also included an appendix of the results from their survey]*

**Research question one – What are the positive impacts of adapting to a four-day working week?**

The four-day work week has been a popular discussion around New Zealand and many New Zealanders are in favor of the idea. 1News did a Kantar Public Poll to see how many people in New Zealand supported the four-day working week and how many people opposed the 4-day working week. A total of 63% said they supported the “introduction of a four-day working week for New Zealand” and only 22% opposed the four-day working week whereas 15% are unsure or refused to answer the poll. There are many positive impacts when it comes to working four days a week and the idea of the notion has been promoted by many businesses and organizations to increase employee well-being and productivity, where in New Zealand we already have 50 companies who have put the notion to work. According to the poll, 70% of Kiwis aged between 18 and 49 have supported the idea of a four-day working week which means that majority of the younger generations are for the idea whereas 30% of Kiwis aged above 49 may have opposed the idea of a four-day working week. The poll had showed that people who were more likely to support the idea were Green Party supporters, people with an annual household income of more than \$150,000, graduates, and labor supporters. Our survey results in response to the question: ‘What are the positive impacts of adapting to a four-day working week’ suggest this:

- Workers with more rest and leisure time are often more productive and produce higher quality work (survey response 33).

- A shorter week gives people more time for family, hobbies and personal activities; provides students with a break; and can improve quality of life, productivity, morale and team culture (survey response 16).
- Having a full day to ourselves allows time for activities we value, which can support mental wellbeing, increase positivity and help us work better during the four working days (survey response 46).

Through research and surveys, it is clear that people in NZ are supporting the idea of a four-day work week due to the likelihood of working in a stressful workplace or school being mentally draining and even other countries have trialed this notion and it has had a significant change in their businesses.

### **Research question two - What are the negative impacts of adapting to a four-day working week?**

Even though the four-day work week has been seen as a positive and beneficial towards businesses, schools etc, there are some negatives that come with the notion. Buckettlaw the employment law experts state the pros and cons of this action in an article about the four-day work week. One of the cons about this notion is the risk of it being expensive, in Sweden's two-year trial that reduced a 40-hour week to a 30-hour week but maintained the five-day schedule and while the study recorded higher work satisfaction, it overall became too costly to uphold. Another con about a four-day work week is not all industries can participate because some of them require a 24/7 presence or other scheduling, making a four-day work week impractical. There is also a 'pressure cooker effect' where the pressure to fit the work of five days into four days can result in mental health issues like stress and anxiety. Survey results in response to the question: 'What are the negatives impacts of adapting to a four-day working week' prove this:

- Some negative impacts might include decreased productivity, especially for younger people who might spend the day on their screens instead of using it well. This could make people lazier and affect how well they work during the four workdays (survey response 46).
- Depending on the industry, there could be more pressure to finish everything in less time, which might increase stress. A four-day week might not suit every company or job (survey response 6).
- Reduced income might be an issue if fewer hours mean less pay, which could affect people's standard of living and create challenges for some businesses.
- Some workers might also find it hard to adjust after working five days a week for a long time, which could temporarily lower productivity or cause extra stress.
- Businesses working on a five-day schedule might struggle to meet customer expectations, which could hurt their competitiveness.
- In some cases, employees might need to work longer hours during the four days to keep up, which could lead to burnout (survey response 33).

Through research and surveys, it is clear that some people in NZ also are opposing the idea of a four-day work week because of reduced income, difficulty adjusting and many more reasons.

### **Research question three: What are the values and viewpoints of people to a four-day working week from a health perspective?**

Andrew Barnes is a sixty three year old CEO of Perpetual Guardian who introduced the four day work week in an eight week trial in 2018. He later launched an international petition called '4 Day Week Global' because he wants people to work smarter and shorter hours and raise awareness about the benefits of a four day week. He stated, "their stress levels have dropped... more of them say they can work better working four days rather than five... the productivity of the company has actually gone up." Andrew's point of view is shaped by a health perspective because he believes wellbeing should be treated as an essential part of work, not something that comes after long hours. His own experience as a young investment banker in the UK, working punishing hours in a competitive sector, shaped his values around protecting workers from burnout and unhealthy workloads. For example, he talked about a leaked Goldman Sachs survey reporting "inhumane" 100-hour weeks and said workers were being treated like racehorses. These experiences show that he values fairness, balance and healthy working conditions. Because he sees wellbeing as something employers should actively support, he argues that shorter hours can create healthier workers, which then improves productivity. The trial at Perpetual Guardian showed that the four day week helped his team be more productive while improving their mental wellbeing. This encouraged other companies to try the idea, including some in New Zealand.

Unilever is a multinational company that makes food, drinks, cleaning products and personal care items. In New Zealand, all 81 staff joined a 12-month trial where they kept 100% of their pay but worked 80% of the time. They had flexibility around when and how they worked within the four day model. Unilever NZ managing director Nick Bangs said "the aim was to change the way work is done, not increase the working hours on four days." Nick Bangs' point of view is also shaped by a health perspective, although he connects wellbeing to workplace systems and long-term sustainability. He values creating an environment where people can work at their best without being overloaded. This comes through in his comments about reducing stress, supporting balance and focusing on healthier work patterns that last. Bangs also talked about shifting away from "old ways of working," which shows he values change that helps both people and the business. These values influence his viewpoint because he believes improving wellbeing and removing stressors helps teams perform better.

Unilever reviewed the results to see if the approach could work for their global workforce of 155,000 employees. The idea gained more attention when Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern encouraged businesses to look at four day weeks after COVID-19. Bangs explained, "Our goal is to measure performance on output, not time... the old ways of working are outdated." This shows that his point of view comes from both a health perspective and an economic one because he wanted to prove that wellbeing and productivity can increase together. Their trial showed similar positive outcomes to Perpetual Guardian, as workers were more motivated and productive with the shorter week. This social action strengthens my findings because it shows how a four day work week can benefit businesses and support employee wellbeing, which Unilever valued.

#### **Research question four: What are the values and viewpoints of people to a four-day working week from an economic perspective?**

A point of view that relates to this issue is Cathy Stewart, a people and culture manager at Kowtow Clothing. She supports the 4day work week because she believes it makes the business more productive while also looking after workers. From her experience in their workplace trial, she found that working fewer days helped the team focus better. She explained, "You really have to assess what you're wasting time on – are your meetings too long, are you having too many meetings, does the stuff at the bottom of your todo list really

need to be done? So, team by team, we just sat down and assessed those things.” This shows she values efficient work habits and believes the business benefits when time is used wisely. Cathy’s viewpoint is shaped by an economic perspective because she wants the company to meet its goals and targets, and she sees a shorter week as a way to improve performance. She mentioned that the trial helped them “form measurable and think through how it might impact the business,” showing that she prioritises productivity and clear results. For her, supporting workers’ wellbeing is part of keeping the business running effectively, since rested employees work better.

She also said, “It’s just great to see that the conversations happening, and people are thinking about it. And that employees are getting the opportunity to have a little bit more of that balance between their work and their personal life.” Even though she talks about balance, she connects it to improved motivation and focus at work. She challenges the idea that longer hours automatically mean more work is done and believes that four days is enough when time is managed properly. Therefore, Cathy’s perspective strengthens my findings because it shows how a New Zealand workplace has already used a 4-day week to improve productivity while supporting employees. It gives a real example of how an economic perspective can still value workers and see wellbeing as part of business success. However, some people who have an economic viewpoint argue the other side. A viewpoint that relates to this issue is Catherine Beard, a BusinessNZ spokesperson. She is against the idea of a 4-day working week because she thinks it could make businesses less productive. Catherine argues that squeezing five days of work into four could put pressure on staff and harm efficiency. She explained that “the challenges in a four-day work week could be that actually staff end up having a really intensive four days, so that could be stressful in and of itself.” She also pointed out that businesses operating seven days a week, like retail or hospitality, may need extra staff to cover the lost day, increasing costs and making it harder to stay profitable. Catherine’s viewpoint is shaped by an economic perspective because she values stability, productivity and making sure businesses can continue running without extra financial strain. She sees risks in shorter weeks, such as higher staffing costs and reduced time to meet targets.

### **Reflection:** *Should New Zealand Adopt the Four-Day Work Week?*

Based on my research, I think New Zealand should adopt a four-day working week because the evidence shows it can improve people’s wellbeing and still keep businesses productive. Many New Zealanders already support the idea, and trials like Perpetual Guardian and Unilever have shown that workers can do the same amount of work in less time because they are more rested and motivated. People in my surveys also said they would have more time for family, hobbies and mental wellbeing, which helps them work better during the four days. Supporters like Damen Hansen and Andrew Barnes also value health and fairness, and they have seen stress levels drop and productivity increase. Even though there are concerns about pressure, staffing and costs for some industries, these challenges can be managed depending on the type of business. Overall, the research suggests that a four-day working week could make a positive difference to many workers in New Zealand, especially those who feel stressed and burnt out, while still allowing businesses to succeed.

### **Evaluation**

Most of my sources were reasonably reliable because they were from reputable journalist websites, like the Guardian and 1News. The article from the World Economic Forum would

also be reliable, as they are a well-regarded international institution, who would be mindful of upholding their reputation. When looking at the study they used in the article, it also said it was done in collaboration with researchers from “Boston College, University College Dublin and Cambridge University” which means it was probably done with proper social sciences research methods, making it more reliable.

Although I did not collect many primary sources, one way I found evidence for my inquiry was through surveys. My friend and I jointly created a survey to get a wider range of responses, and we distributed it to both her and my friends and family. This resulted in 48 responses, giving us both a larger group of results and a more accurate picture of what people's opinions were regarding a 4-day work week. A little age bias may have resulted from the fact that, of the 48 survey replies, 35 came from respondents 10 to 19 years old. This is because most of our data came from younger people's perspectives. This could have created a bias because many young people tend to lack knowledge about the economy, news, and politics and may only enjoy the idea of having an extra day off from work or school. However, I went through all the responses and selected a variety of different responses based on the information I found.

Another improvement I could have made in my inquiry would be including more voices from people who were against shifting to a 4-day work week, because I noticed that most of the information I gathered came from individuals or groups who supported the idea or were at least open to trialling it. If I had been able to find more viewpoints from people who disagreed with the change, my investigation would have felt more balanced overall. One reason these perspectives may have been harder to find is that businesses might not want to publicly state that they do not support a 4-day work week, since this could affect how the public sees them, especially when many people are in favour of better work-life balance. Because of this, some organisations may have chosen not to comment at all, which limited how well I could explore the opposing side of the debate.

### **Make justified generalizations that could be applied outside of the context of the inquiry (the focus)**

Many other countries have had their opinions about the notion of a 4-day work week such as Netherlands, Germany, United Kingdom, United States, Sweden and even Japan. The countries I have stated all have remarkably similar opinions about the 4-day work week, majority of them being positive towards the notion but however Japan and the United States have their concerns. Japan's reasoning varied from being understaffed or the workload being too great, Murata of Recruit Works Institute said the disadvantages of the four-day workweek include the difficulty of managing work shifts and the lack of communication among workers, she said that large firms that will embrace the work schedule could set an example. "Whether the four-day workweek brings benefits varies depending on the industry or type of jobs that workers have. Japanese companies could implement the idea on a trial basis and see whether it works for them, more firms may follow if they learn the benefits from those that have already utilized it," Murata said. Whereas in the Netherlands it seems to be the norm working less hours in a week. In comparison to other nations, 12% of working fathers and 86% of working mothers in this country each worked fewer than 35 hours per week. Monday through Friday, 9 AM to 5 PM, are considered standard business hours in the Netherlands. Employers are not allowed by law to make their staff work more than 12 hours a day, or a total of 60 hours a week. No one can be forced to work on Sundays in the Netherlands.

Grade: Excellence

For Excellence, the student needs to conduct a reflective social inquiry comprehensively.

In addition to the Achieved and Merit criteria, this requires them to make justified generalisations that can be applied beyond the immediate context of the inquiry.

The student has clearly met the requirements for Achieved and Merit through accurate explanation of perspectives, points of view, and values. They clearly articulate how progressive and conservative worldviews relate to the selected individuals' values and, in turn, their viewpoints on crime. They have also reflected on their inquiry process at a depth consistent with the Achieved criterion at curriculum level 7, including commenting on source reliability, limitations, and improvements for future inquiries.

The final focus question, "*What can New Zealand learn from how other countries deal with the causes of crime?*" has been thoughtfully developed to give the student appropriate scope to form a justified generalisation. In this section, they draw on earlier findings to argue for a balanced approach that pairs accountability with prevention. They use international examples, including attendance enforcement in England, prevention-focused strategies in Scotland, and links between poverty and crime in South Africa, to show how a mix of actions could inform New Zealand's own response. This constitutes a justified generalisation because it is grounded in the perspectives and evidence established in Questions 1–2 and transfers these insights beyond the original cases to guide action in New Zealand.

Excellence

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**Issue: Crime Rates in New Zealand**

Research Questions:

- 1) What is the impact of an increase in crime in New Zealand
- 2) What are the different perspectives and viewpoints on why there has been an increase in crime in New Zealand?
- 3) What can New Zealand learn from how other countries deal with the causes of crime?

**Sources:**

Title / Topic	Publisher / Organisation	Publication Details
Rehabilitation Programmes	Corrections NZ	Published by the NZ Department of Corrections. Accessed on 25 May 2023.
Reports of retail crime nearly doubled in 5 years	NZ Herald	Interview with Greg Harford (Retail NZ CEO), published July 2022
Crime in the City: Political and city leaders respond to an increase in violent crime	NZ Herald	Interview conducted by Michael Neilson (2021) with Inspector Gary Davey (Auckland Central Area Commander)
Auckland councillor angry ram raids have escalated	RNZ	Published by Radio New Zealand, May 9 2022.
We must not sit on our hands when it comes to crime	Stuff.co.nz	Press conference featuring Arena Williams and Stuart Smith opinion piece. Published 1 December 2022.
Fines for parents rise as schools try to reach absent kids	BBC News	Published by BBC News on 7 June 2022

*[ The student had also hyperlinked in a copy of the notes they had taken from their sources]*

**Question 1: What is the impact of an increase in crime in New Zealand.**

Over the past couple of years, a substantial increase in crime in New Zealand has occurred. This increase in crime has had severe effects on many people throughout the country. According to the New Zealand Police, in late 2017 crime was up by 15%, and this has since increased to 65% in 2022. This increase in crime has impacted so many people in many different ways. NZ's most common crimes include theft, minor assault, and burglary. These, as well as many other crimes, have increased substantially over the past five years. Victimization of offences committed in NZ has reached a record high, with 30,000 as of mid-2022. Not only is an increase in crime affecting the victims of the offence, but it has also created immense pressure and anxiety on businesses throughout the country. Retail NZ's CEO Greg Harford explains that the biggest impact that comes with an increase in crime is the safety of people. Harford also mentions that particular businesses may see a loss in

people shopping at their shops due to nervousness that the shop could be targeted by criminals. This could have a further flow-on effect for businesses as they may see a decrease in sales and revenue. Community organisations such as social workers and Police are also highly affected by an increase in crime as they become under-resourced. This is shown by a survey created by RNZ which shows that 86 percent of Police staff feel that they are under-resourced. An increase in crime is a current nationwide social issue. A social issue is an issue that affects large numbers of people in society. An increase in crime is a social issue as it is currently affecting vast amounts of people living in NZ's society in many different ways. Since early 2021, crime has been on the rise throughout New Zealand, with substantial increases in larger cities such as Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch. Auckland, for example, recorded crimes that leapt from 87,971 in the year to March 2022 to almost 110,000 this year.

An increase in crime in New Zealand is becoming more and more of an issue as months pass. It is an important issue as it deprives the safety and security of members of society and affects people and organisations mentally, physically, and financially in many ways. For example, with an increase in crime, many people become nervous and experience stress and anxiety as they worry about the safety of themselves and those around them. This negatively affects people mentally. With low levels of assault and sexual violence up by more than 94% in the last year, people are affected physically through injuries, and with robberies and burglaries hitting an all-time high throughout the country, many people and businesses struggle financially to repair or replace goods. Many people and officials believe that one reason NZ has seen an increase in crime since early 2021 is due to Covid-19 and the lockdowns that came with it. This has negatively affected people's mental health and has caused an increase in stress, anxiety, and tensions within communities, leading to crime being committed. Another contributing factor to an increase in crime in NZ is the fact that the cost of living has been rising over the past few years. An increase in crime means that members of communities need to take more responsibility to ensure the safety and stability of others until a change is made in society to fix a growing national problem.

## **Question 2: What are the different perspectives and viewpoints on why there has been an increase in crime in New Zealand?**

Perspective and Viewpoint #1: Chris Luxon

Christopher Luxon is the leader of the New Zealand National Party and in a press conference he shared his point of view on the increase in crime in New Zealand and what he believes needs to be done to fix this issue. Being the leader of the National Party, Chris Luxon's viewpoint is shaped by a conservative perspective in relation to crime. He sees crime as a major threat to society and believes that a lack of strong punishment and people taking less personal responsibility has been a main reason for the increase in crime and as such his values are on the role of law in order in the community. His point of view is that there need to be harsher punishments for offenders, in particular youth offenders.. He explains, "National says, enough is enough, and I'm also telling young serious offenders under National, there will be consequences for your actions." From this, we can see that Luxon and the National Party think that to combat an increase in crime in NZ, there need to be harsher punishments for offenders, so they do not re-offend and to keep them out of communities. Luxon has also argued that crime has risen because the system is too soft, saying "violent

crime has increased by 33 per cent, retail crime has doubled, and gangs are growing faster than Police,” and that a National government would make sure “the justice system holds offenders accountable through sentences that better reflect the seriousness of a crime.” In 2022 he also said, “we just clearly haven’t got the appropriate consequences in place for serious offending,” and that “the primary job of Government is to protect its citizens,” which shows his focus on law and order and personal responsibility. Luxon and the National Party also targeted youth offenders and explained that they believe youth offenders need to have more serious punishments, such as military style boot camps, with Luxon saying “Enough is enough” and that under National young offenders “would face consequences for their actions.” Luxon’s background has also likely shaped this viewpoint, as he comes from a wealthy background it is unlikely he has ever experienced crime or been around criminals in his community and so may not fully understand the underlying reasons that people may commit crime. Being a conservative politician, he wants to appeal to his voters and offer quicker solutions to the issue and National has historically always been the party that has been harder on crime

### Perspective and Viewpoint #2: Alf Filipaina

Alf Filipaina is an Auckland Councillor and former Police Officer. In an article, he shared his point of view on the increase in crime in New Zealand and what needs to be done to combat this issue. In contrast to Luxon, he has more of a left-wing progressive perspective towards crime – believing that the focus should be on addressing the root of the crime, rather than just enforcing harsher punishment. He values a more community and human rights focused approach and, being Pasifika has a strong family and cultural values. As such, his point of view is that there a reason for the increase in crime has been the increase in poverty in many communities and the lack of social support and isolation that occurs. He feels their need to be more social and youth workers in communities across the country working with offenders and their families. In this role, they would also be looking at the wider contributing factors of crime. He explains “We need youth workers working with our youth, but also working with our families, because if we fix the families we then fix the wider issue. Filipaina believes that if families are sorted and supported, it will reduce the chances of family members committing crimes. He also focuses on an increase in youth offending. He believes that if youth have a safe and stable family environment, then that will decrease the chances of them committing crime. This would be through social workers looking at the wider contributing factors, such as family violence and poverty. From this point of view, we can see that Filipaina values human rights, as he believes that everyone should have a safe living environment. Without this, he feels youth and family members will be more inclined to commit crimes are shown here as Filipaina believes that everyone should have access to a safe living environment, which includes safe housing and being free of family violence, which relates to equality and social justice, which is a more progressive view on the issue.

### **Question 3: What can New Zealand learn from how other countries deal with the causes of crime?**

What New Zealand can learn from other countries is that dealing with the causes of crime works best when there is a clear balance between personal responsibility and strong social support. From a conservative point of view like Christopher Luxon’s, we can see how countries use tougher and more certain consequences to restore order and reassure the

public. International research shows that the certainty of being caught is more effective at deterring crime than simply increasing sentence length, which means visible and consistent enforcement helps reduce offending more than harsher penalties alone. For example, the idea of enforcing school attendance through clear penalties for unjustified absences shows how accountability can lift engagement and reduce the chances of youth drifting into offending. In England, councils issued about 487,300 penalty notices to parents for unauthorised absences in 2023–24, up 22 percent on the previous year, which shows how governments use attendance penalties to reinforce responsibility and keep students connected to school. Also, through doing this when there is increased attendance, it also increased overall educational attainment, which is also known to reduce crime.

At the same time, a progressive approach like Alf Filipaina's shows why many places invest in the drivers of crime so that fewer people end up offending in the first place, which highlights it's not just enough to focus on the consequences. South Africa is a clear warning that when poverty is extreme and not addressed, crime can rise to very high levels. In 2022, South Africa ranked first in the crime index among African countries with a score of 74.5 on the index. The leading cause of crime in South Africa is extreme rates of poverty. With poverty still being a leading underlying factor for crime in New Zealand, if it is not addressed, NZ's crime rates could increase similarly to South Africa's. New Zealand can learn from that by strengthening support around families and young people, for example by putting more youth workers and social workers into communities, improving access to safe housing, and making sure mental health and trauma support are available. For example, in Scotland when crime peaked in the mid 2000s, they put in a public health approach invested in prevention across schools, health and community services, and Scotland's homicide victims fell from over 130 in 2004/2005 to 57 in 2023–24, one of the lowest totals since records began. Which shows that although addressing underlying causes takes a long time, it can be the most effective way of reducing crime rates.

Putting these lessons together suggests a general approach that can apply outside this inquiry as well. Where social disadvantage is high, governments should tackle poverty, housing and education so the next generation has real opportunities. At the same time, there need to be clear, consistent consequences when people do offend so communities feel safe and the justice system is respected. Finding a way to incorporate both perspectives and also learn lessons from other countries is a keyway that New Zealand crime rates can improve in future.

## **Evaluation**

*What were the strengths and weaknesses of your inquiry process:*

Given how topical the issue is in the media, it was really easy to find a wide range of research that related to my inquiry – and many were from well respected websites such as BBC and NZ Herald. However, at times I did find it trickier to know if I was finding reliable information when I was looking at progressive v conservative approaches to how crime is treated overseas as I wasn't as familiar with those countries' websites. It was also challenging to find direct primary sources, as many articles which were looking at causes and ways of addressing crime and the statistics were behind paywalls, so I had to rely on what I could access for free. However, some of the secondary sources did include direct quotations and primary sources. For example, the opinion piece "We must not sit on our

hands when it comes to crime”, although not about Luxon’s opinion – linked in a full video clip from his press conference, which allowed me to gather direct quotes and capture his view directly.

*What further information could have been added? What more did you need to know?*

I felt I had a good overview of the different points of view and that it was easy to distinguish them because they were so contrasting. However, it was a bit trickier when trying to explore how these viewpoints and perspective shaped addressing crime in other countries because this wasn’t explicit within different articles, so I had to use what I knew about their values and the general approach of each perspective to try and tell if it was a ‘progressive’ action or a ‘conservative’ and this took a bit more time.

*How reliable were the sources that you used?*

5 out of my 8 sources were NZ media outlets, all of which I knew had robust journalistic ethics and integrity and would have been peer checked like Stuff and NZ Herald/ However, I found that at least three of my sources had a slight left-wing bias according to the Media Bias Fact Check website. This means that some of my information could have been slightly altered to a left-wing point view. Next time I could look at gathering information from only websites that are neutral to ensure that my information is credible, or work on ensuring I had a balance from each view. Something else that I was mindful of was that as the topic of crime is such a big concern for New Zealanders at the moment, and something lots of people are interested in, it is possible that a lot of what the media were saying was an exaggeration, or they were exaggerating people’s points of view in order to get a readers interest This may mean that some of my resources are exaggerated meaning that some information may not be entirely correct.