

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies marking guide and response

External assessment 2024

Short response (43 marks)

Assessment objectives

This assessment instrument is used to determine student achievement in the following objectives:

1. define and use terminology relating to maintaining, retaining and recognising the culture and identity of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples within the context of reconciliation and recognition
2. demonstrate an understanding of the connection between land, language, culture, time, place and relationships within Aboriginal societies and/or Torres Strait Islander societies within the context of reconciliation and recognition
3. analyse worldviews of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples through identifying, examining and considering these within the context of reconciliation and recognition
5. evaluate the significance of cultural interaction by assessing the impact of responses related to reconciliation and recognition
6. create responses that communicate ideas related to reconciliation and recognition within sentences and short paragraphs.

Note: Unit objective 4 is not assessed in this assessment instrument.

Purpose

This document consists of a marking guide and a sample response.

The marking guide:

- provides a tool for calibrating external assessment markers to ensure reliability of results
- indicates the correlation, for each question, between mark allocation and qualities at each level of the mark range
- informs schools and students about how marks are matched to qualities in student responses.

The sample response:

- demonstrates the qualities of a high-level response
- has been annotated using the marking guide.

Mark allocation

Where a response does not meet any of the descriptors for a question or a criterion, a mark of '0' will be recorded.

Where no response to a question has been made, a mark of 'N' will be recorded.

Short response

Q	Sample response	The response:	M
1	A treaty is a legally binding agreement between two or more parties to resolve a conflict. It outlines the relationship between the signing parties, including their rights and obligations to one another. As a negotiated agreement, all parties must agree to the terms and conditions in a treaty.	Defining, using and demonstrating understanding	
		• provides a definition that refers to three features	3
		• provides a definition that refers to two features	2
		• provides a definition that refers to a feature	1
		• does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0
2	A key component of treaty-making is the need for signatories to work together to reach a shared understanding. Both sources highlight that there is a need to 'confront our uncomfortable past' (Source 1) and to 'address the unfinished business' (Source 2). This suggests that there is a shared understanding that change needs to occur, providing for a more truthful history of this state to be shared. In doing so, this positions truth-telling as one of the key components for treaty-making in Queensland. This is a significant departure from historical policies, like those of the assimilation era, where the sharing of First Nations histories and cultures was very difficult. Both sources share a sense of optimism about treaty-making processes, suggesting that the Path to Treaty Commitment is a 'significant step forward' (Source 1) and a 'pivotal moment' (Source 2). Both sources indicate that the process has the potential to reframe the relationships between First Nations peoples of Queensland and non-Indigenous Queenslanders, another key component of treaty-making.	Analysing	
		• identifies key ideas about treaty-making processes • provides an analysis of Sources 1 and 2 to explain in detail how the sources demonstrate the identified key ideas • uses relevant evidence from Sources 1 and 2 to support the analysis	5
		• identifies key ideas about treaty-making processes • provides an analysis of Sources 1 and 2 to explain how the sources demonstrate the identified key ideas • uses relevant evidence from Sources 1 and 2 to support the analysis	4
		• identifies a key idea about treaty-making processes • provides an analysis of Sources 1 and 2 to explain how the sources demonstrate the identified key idea • uses relevant evidence from Sources 1 and 2 to support the analysis	3
		• identifies a key idea about treaty-making processes • describes how the identified key idea is demonstrated in Source 1 or Source 2	2
		• makes a relevant statement that relates to Source 1 or Source 2	1
		• does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0

Q	The response:	M
3	Analysing	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies how the establishment of the Yoorrook Justice Commission will enable stronger truth-telling processes in Victoria provides a detailed analysis of Sources 3 and 4 to support the response uses evidence from Sources 3 and 4 to support the analysis 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies how the establishment of the Yoorrook Justice Commission will enable stronger truth-telling processes in Victoria provides an analysis of Sources 3 and 4 to support the response uses evidence from Sources 3 and 4 to support the analysis 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies how the establishment of the Yoorrook Justice Commission will enable stronger truth-telling processes in Victoria provides an analysis of Source 3 or Source 4 to support the response 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies a way the establishment of the Yoorrook Justice Commission will enable stronger truth-telling processes in Victoria provides a supporting statement 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> makes a relevant statement about the Yoorrook Justice Commission 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0

Sample response

Although the Yoorrook Justice Commission is an independent body, it is supported by the Victorian Government (Source 3). This cooperation is evident in the joint statement and the commission's logo. The establishment of the commission indicates the government is willing to undertake a difficult process to hear painful truths and commit to change (Source 3). The commission will have the power of a Royal Commission, and so will be able to make recommendations to the government (Source 3). These recommendations can provide the basis for policy changes.

The commission, with its focus on acknowledging the past and bringing together "mobs from across the State" (Source 4), represents a concerted effort by the Victorian Government to ensure there is a process for truth-telling about the historical and contemporary harms endured by First Nations peoples (Source 3). The statement refers to the ongoing impacts of the Stolen Generations and the pain many First Nations peoples continue to feel. The work of the commission will encourage a wider understanding of why truth-telling is important.

Q	The response:	M
4a)	<p>Evaluating</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes an insightful judgment about the extent to which the Path to Treaty Commitment or the establishment of the Yoorrook Justice Commission can be considered an act of reconciliation • provides a detailed explanation that supports the judgment 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes a judgment about the extent to which the Path to Treaty Commitment or the establishment of the Yoorrook Justice Commission can be considered an act of reconciliation • provides a detailed explanation that supports the judgment <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes an insightful judgment about the extent to which the Path to Treaty Commitment or the establishment of the Yoorrook Justice Commission can be considered an act of reconciliation • provides an explanation that supports the judgment 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes a judgment about the extent to which the Path to Treaty Commitment or the establishment of the Yoorrook Justice Commission can be considered an act of reconciliation • provides an explanation that supports the judgment 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes relevant statements about the Path to Treaty Commitment or the establishment of the Yoorrook Justice Commission as an act of reconciliation 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0

Sample response

The Queensland Government's Path to Treaty Commitment can be considered a significant act of reconciliation. The commitment recognises that a treaty process that acknowledges past atrocities and recognises the important position and continuing sovereignty of First Nations peoples will benefit the state. The commitment encourages Queenslanders to recognise, celebrate and learn from First Nations peoples, which positively positions First Nations peoples. This is a distinct shift from the position of prior Queensland governments.

Q	The response:	M
4b)	Evaluating	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suggests a future action that may progress reconciliation based on the evaluation 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • suggests a future action that may progress reconciliation 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes a statement about reconciliation 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0

Sample response

An action that would further progress reconciliation in Queensland would be to consider multiple treaties where agreements are reached with all traditional owners of Country in Queensland. This would provide greater recognition of the diversity of the cultures of First Nations Australians. It would also allow for stronger truth-telling processes that could acknowledge the different ways that colonisation was experienced across the state and its continuing effects on First Nations Australians.

Q	The response:	M
5a)	Defining, using and demonstrating understanding	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies three aims of the Gurra Gurra Framework 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies two aims of the Gurra Gurra Framework 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies an aim of the Gurra Gurra Framework 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0

Sample response

Three aims of the Gurra Gurra Framework are: 1) build relationships based on positive partnerships where the department is able to work together with First Nations peoples 2) ensure greater recognition of the sophisticated relationship First Nations peoples have with Country and 3) ensure that the reframed relationship is a permanent one.

Q	The response:	M
5b)	Analysing	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyses Sources 5–7 to provide an explanation of how the framework addresses the three identified aims uses relevant evidence from Sources 5–7 to support the explanation 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyses Sources 5–7 to provide an explanation of how the framework addresses two identified aims uses relevant evidence from Sources 5–7 to support the explanation 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> analyses Sources 5–7 to provide an explanation of how the framework addresses an identified aim uses relevant evidence from Sources 5–7 to support the explanation 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0

Q	The response:	M
5b	Evaluating	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes an appropriate judgment about the extent to which the framework addresses the identified aims • provides an explanation that supports the judgment 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes an appropriate judgment about the extent to which the framework addresses the identified aims 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides an opinion about the framework 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0
	Creating	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effectively convey ideas relating to the question 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conveys ideas relating to the question 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0

Sample response

The sources reflect a willingness by the Department of Environment and Science achieve these aims.

The *Framework's* vision statement includes the goal to 'walk forward together', referring to this as 'transformative change' (Source 5). The language used to describe how the framework will be enacted (Source 7) addresses this. For example, the department states that it will 'be relational' rather than 'transactional'. This emphasises the importance of building relationships where there is shared understanding between parties.

The department aims to recognise and build an understanding of the sophisticated knowledge of Country held by First Nations peoples. Source 6 refers to a cultural eco-system where the health of the human, physical and spiritual worlds are interconnected and need to be considered in concert when developing programs. This reflects a holistic worldview held by many First Nations Australians. The *Framework's* inclusion of this worldview addresses this aim.

Another aim is that the reframed relationship become a permanent one. This requires that the department adopts a future focus when considering how it will work with First Nations peoples. The ways of working (Source 7) will be ongoing rather than being attached to discrete projects. This indicates that the department has considered how to ensure the longevity of these changes.

Q	The response:	M
6	Defining, using and demonstrating understanding	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a detailed explanation of the aspects of Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures reflected in Sources 8, 9 and 10 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides an appropriate explanation of the aspects of Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures reflected in Sources 8, 9 and 10 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides relevant statements about the aspects of Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and/or cultures reflected in Sources 8, 9 and 10 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a relevant statement about an aspect of Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and/or cultures reflected in Source 8, 9 or 10 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a statement about Source 8, 9 or 10 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0

Q	The response:	M
6	<p>Analysing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a detailed explanation of the purpose of the Masig Statement analyses Sources 8, 9 and 10 to provide a detailed explanation of how the Masig Statement recognises key aspects of Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures provides a statement explaining the importance of recognising this 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a detailed explanation of the purpose of the Masig Statement analyses Sources 8, 9 and 10 to provide an appropriate explanation of how the Masig Statement recognises key aspects of Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures provides a statement explaining the importance of recognising this <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides an appropriate explanation of the purpose of the Masig Statement analyses Sources 8, 9 and 10 to provide a detailed explanation of how the Masig Statement recognises key aspects of Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures provides a statement explaining the importance of recognising this 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a statement about the purpose of the Masig Statement analyses Sources 8, 9 or 10 to provide some explanation of how the Masig Statement recognises key aspects of Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a statement that outlines the purpose of the Masig Statement <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provides a statement about how the Masig Statement recognises key aspects of Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and/or cultures 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0

Q	The response:	M
6	Creating	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> organises sentences purposefully and fluently to convey ideas relating to the question 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses sentences to convey ideas relating to the question 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> conveys ideas relating to the question 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0

Sample response

The Masig Statement seeks regional autonomy for the peoples of the Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area (Source 8). Gaining this autonomy will enable Torres Strait Islander peoples to make decisions that shape their lives (Source 8). The statement does not seek the creation of a separate state or country but rather the empowerment of communities through self-determination and recognition that these communities are best placed to make these decisions (Source 10). The statement emphasises that these decisions need to be informed by Torres Strait Islander peoples' historic and ongoing connection with their Country (Source 8).

These communities have been campaigning for the right to manage their own affairs for over 85 years (Source 10). This indicates regional autonomy is an issue of fundamental and multigenerational importance to these communities. The statement also advocates for these communities' right to preserve their unique relationship with their Country under Ailan Kastom (Source 8). The statement recognises that previous governments have not provided opportunities for Torres Strait Islander peoples to make locally informed decisions that address the distinct needs of the Torres Strait and the Northern Peninsula Area. If enacted into law, the Masig Statement will aid the continuation of traditional practices via policies developed, decided on and implemented by Torres Strait Islander peoples. Recognition of the unique and enduring nature of Torres Strait Islander peoples' histories and cultures, as outlined in the Masig Statement, is important, as it will ensure the continuation of Ailan Kastom, and that the decisions made for this region prioritise the wellbeing of the Country and its peoples.



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