



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies 2025 v1.2

IA3: Sample assessment instrument

This sample has been compiled by the QCAA to assist and support teachers in planning and developing assessment instruments for individual school settings.

Student name	sample only
Student number	sample only
Teacher	sample only
Issued	sample only
Due date	sample only

Marking summary

Criterion	Marks allocated	Provisional marks
Defining, Using and Demonstrating understanding	6	
Interpreting and Analysing	7	
Evaluating	7	
Creating	5	
Overall	25	

Conditions

Technique	Investigation
Unit	Unit 4: Moving forward, looking back
Topic/s	Topic 1: Resilience
Duration	Approximately 15 hours of class time
Mode / length	Written: up to 2000 words
Individual / group	Individual
Resources	Access to library and internet resources

Context

Cultural expression can be used to recognise and sustain the identities and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Cultural expression in the form of art, dance, drama, film, literature and music can be used as a significant expression of resilience.

Task

Investigate and evaluate one form of cultural expression used to recognise and sustain the identities and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. Evaluate the significance of this form of cultural expression within the context of resilience. Present your response in an analytical essay.

To complete this task, you must:

- select a form of cultural expression from the list below
 - art
 - dance
 - drama
- develop a hypothesis to investigate the extent to which the chosen form of cultural expression has contributed to the resilience of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. Locate and use information from sources to
 - analyse viewpoints and perspectives to explain how the selected form of cultural expression recognises and sustains the identities and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples
 - evaluate the significance of the selected form of cultural expression as a form of resilience that recognises and sustains the identities and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples
 - support your analysis and evaluation
- present your response using the conventions of an analytical essay using appropriate terminology and referencing.

Checkpoints

- ☐ After approximately 3 of 15 hours: Consultation (hypothesis development)
- ☐ After approximately 6 of 15 hours: Planning check (hypothesis, information and data gathered)
- ☐ After approximately 9 of 15 hours: Progress check (hypothesis, information and data gathered, reference details, drafting)
- ☐ After approximately 12 of 15 hours: Draft due
- ☐ After approximately 15 of 15 hours: Final response due

Authentication strategies

- You will be provided class time for task completion.
- Your teacher will collect and annotate a draft.
- You must acknowledge all sources.
- Your teacher will conduct interviews or consultations as you develop the response.
- You will use plagiarism-detection software to submit your response.

Instrument-specific marking guide (IA3): Investigation response (25%)

Defining, Using and Demonstrating understanding	Marks
The student response has the following characteristics:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> thorough and accurate use of terminology related to recognising and sustaining the identities and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples comprehensive and appropriate identification of connectedness within Aboriginal societies and/or Torres Strait Islander societies evident in the selected form of cultural expression detailed and accurate explanations of ways that the selected form of cultural expression demonstrates the ongoing connection between land, language, culture, time, place and relationships 	5–6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> use of appropriate terminology related to recognising and sustaining the identities and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples some identification of the connectedness within Aboriginal societies and/or Torres Strait Islander societies evident in the selected form of cultural expression explanations of ways that the selected form of cultural expression demonstrates the ongoing connection between land, language, culture, time, place and relationships 	3–4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meaning of words, phrases and/or concepts related to recognising and sustaining the identities and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples characterised by significant inaccuracies and/or omissions throughout the response significant errors and/or omissions within statements are evident throughout the response. 	1–2
The student response does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0

Interpreting and Analysing	Marks
The student response has the following characteristics:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> detailed interpretation of information from sources that examine the role of the selected form of cultural expression in the context of resilience thorough and detailed identification of viewpoints and perspectives that relate to how the selected form of cultural expression recognises and sustains the identities and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples well-reasoned analysis of viewpoints and perspectives that explains how the selected form of cultural expression recognises and sustains the identities and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples 	6–7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> interpretation of information from sources that examine the role of the selected form of cultural expression in the context of resilience identification of viewpoints and perspectives that relate to how the selected form of cultural expression recognises and sustains the identities and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples analysis of viewpoints and perspectives that explains how the selected form of cultural expression recognises and sustains the identities and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples 	4–5

Interpreting and Analysing	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fragmented interpretation of information from sources that examine the role of the selected form of cultural expression in the context of resilience identification of a viewpoint and/or a perspective that relate to how the selected form of cultural expression recognises and sustains the identities and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples superficial analysis of identified viewpoint and/or perspective that states how the selected form of cultural expression recognises and sustains the identities and living cultures Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples 	2–3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> statements that relate to the role of cultural expression within the context of resilience statement about how the selected form of cultural expression recognises and/or sustains the identities and living cultures of Aboriginal peoples and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples. 	1
The student response does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0

Evaluating	Marks
The student response has the following characteristics:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> insightful judgment of the extent to which the selected form of cultural expression demonstrates the resilience of Aboriginal societies and/or Torres Strait Islander societies judgement supported by discerning and thorough reasoning effective use of evidence from sources to support the judgment 	6–7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> clear judgment of the extent to which the selected form of cultural expression demonstrates the resilience of Aboriginal societies and/or Torres Strait Islander societies judgment supported by considered reasoning use of evidence to support the judgment 	4–5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> superficial judgment of the extent to which the selected form of cultural expression demonstrates the resilience of Aboriginal societies and/or Torres Strait Islander societies judgment supported by basic reasoning some reference to evidence from sources that support the judgment 	2–3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> statements about the selected form of cultural expression as a form of resilience statements related to cultural expression and/or resilience are based on a simplistic understanding and/or are unclear reference to a source that relates to the statements made in the response. 	1
The student response does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0

Creating	Marks
The student response has the following characteristics:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • features of an analytical essay are consistently demonstrated • succinct, with ideas conveyed logically in relation to the hypothesis devised • appropriate language and recognised referencing conventions are adhered to, with minimal errors 	4–5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • features of an analytical essay are generally demonstrated • conveys ideas that are related to the hypothesis devised • appropriate language and recognised referencing conventions are generally adhered to, but with some errors evident throughout the response 	2–3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • features of an analytical essay are generally demonstrated • conveys ideas not related to the hypothesis devised • appropriate language and/or referencing conventions impede communication of ideas. 	1
The student response does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0



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