

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Studies marking guide and response

External assessment 2021

Short response (48 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.

Marking guide

Short response

Q	The response:	M
Defining, using and demonstrating understanding		
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies two aspects of the Apology that have contributed to the reconciliation process provides a detailed explanation of how both aspects have contributed to the reconciliation process uses evidence from Source 1 and Source 2 to support the response 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies two aspects of the Apology that have contributed to the reconciliation process provides a detailed explanation of how one aspect has contributed to the reconciliation process provides an explanation of how the second aspect has contributed to the reconciliation process uses evidence from Source 1 and Source 2 to support the response 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies two aspects of the Apology that have contributed to the reconciliation process provides an explanation of how both aspects have contributed to the reconciliation process refers to Source 1 and Source 2 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> identifies an aspect of the Apology that can be linked to the reconciliation process makes a relevant statement about the reconciliation process using evidence from Source 1 or Source 2 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> makes a relevant statement about the Apology <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> makes a relevant statement about Source 1 or Source 2 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0

Sample response

Rudd (Source 1) acknowledges that the Apology is the 'first step' in the healing of the nation. Petersen (Source 2) also notes that the Apology laid the groundwork but also states that it is work that continues, even 13 years after the Apology. This encourages Australians to understand the complexity of the reconciliation process, one where an apology by the Australian Government represented only one small step toward reconciliation.

Both Petersen and Rudd identify that truth-telling needs to occur. Rudd refers to this as 'acknowledging the past', specifically the assimilation policies that resulted in the removal of Aboriginal children and Torres Strait Islander children from their families. The public acknowledgment of this was a powerful act, with Petersen noting that many Stolen Generations survivors felt the Apology was a step towards resolving past injustices. The process of truth-telling remains an essential part of the reconciliation process.

Q	The response:	M
Analysing		
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides a detailed analysis of how language is expressed in the 2 sources selected from Sources 3–5 • provides a detailed explanation of the importance of understanding language for reconciliation • uses relevant evidence from the 2 sources selected from Sources 3–5 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides an analysis of how language is expressed in the 2 sources selected from Sources 3–5 • provides an explanation of the importance of understanding language for reconciliation • uses relevant evidence from the 2 sources selected from Sources 3–5 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides an analysis of how language is expressed in the 2 sources selected from Sources 3–5 • provides a statement about the importance of understanding language for reconciliation • uses relevant evidence from 1 source selected from Sources 3–5 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides a statement about the different ways that language can be expressed • makes a relevant statement about the role of language in reconciliation 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provides a statement about the different ways language can be expressed <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes a relevant statement about the role of language in reconciliation 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0

Sample response

Language in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander worldviews is more than just spoken word. Torres Strait Islander peoples learn to read the star maps left for them by their ancestors. Learning the language of the star maps, such as the Tagai constellation, ensures a continuous relationship to the ancestors and provides practical understanding for everyday tasks, such as gardening and hunting. Yolngu sign language is important for similar practical reasons. It is an important form of communication for hunters, ensuring that prey is not frightened away. Historically, as a non-verbal way of communication, it ensured the continuation of language when Aboriginal peoples were forbidden to use their first language. Understanding the importance of language as more than the spoken or written word is an important step towards reconciliation. It shows historical acceptance as it acknowledges previously denied rights while also valuing the importance of these practices to preserve and strengthen culture.

Q	The response:	M
Defining, using and demonstrating understanding		
3	· demonstrates an accurate understanding of the purpose of a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)	3
	· demonstrates a basic understanding of the purpose of a RAP	2
	· makes a relevant statement about RAPs	1
	· does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0
Evaluating		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · makes a clear judgment about the extent to which the targets represent practical actions that contribute to the reconciliation process · includes a thorough explanation that supports the judgment and refers to 3 targets from Source 7 · effectively uses evidence from Sources 6 and 7 to support the judgment 	6
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · makes a judgment about the extent to which the targets represent practical actions that contribute to the reconciliation process · includes a detailed explanation that supports the judgment and refers to 3 targets from Source 7 · refers to relevant evidence from Sources 6 and 7 to support the judgment 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · makes a judgment about the extent to which the targets represent practical actions that contribute to the reconciliation process · includes an explanation that supports the judgment and refers to 2 targets from Source 7 · refers to relevant evidence from Sources 6 and 7 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · makes a statement about RAPs · includes an appropriate explanation that supports this statement · refers to relevant evidence from Sources 6 and 7 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · makes a statement about RAPs · refers to Source 6 or Source 7 	2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · makes a statement about RAPs 	OR	1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · refers to Source 6 or Source 7 		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 		0

Sample response

RAPs encourage companies to develop workplaces where racism is not tolerated, and staff are empowered to have better awareness of the cultures and histories of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The excerpt from the ARLC's RAP shows a clear commitment to developing cultural awareness, with 100% of new staff required to complete face-to-face cultural awareness training within their first six months. This commitment to improving cultural awareness also extends to management, since commissioners and the executive are also required to undertake a cultural immersion activity. As a result, all levels of the organisation are provided with the opportunity to improve their understanding and appreciation of why cultural awareness is important. These actions contribute to reconciliation as they build more respectful and trusting relationships between non-Indigenous Australians and Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples through enabling participants to learn about the histories and cultures of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Furthermore, the RAP includes the requirement for the ARLC to measure the learning journey of staff and keep Reconciliation Australia informed about its progress. This encourages the ARLC to be transparent and accountable to its employees and Reconciliation Australia when implementing these important reconciliatory actions.

Q	The response:	M
Defining, using and demonstrating understanding		
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describes key features of the legislation • provides a detailed explanation of how the legislation acknowledges cultural practices that are unique to Torres Strait Islander peoples • uses relevant evidence from Sources 8 and 9 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describes key features of the legislation • provides an explanation of how the legislation acknowledges cultural practices that are unique to Torres Strait Islander peoples • uses relevant evidence from Sources 8 and 9 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies a key feature of the legislation • identifies how the legislation acknowledges a cultural practice that is unique to Torres Strait Islander peoples • uses relevant evidence from Source 8 or Source 9 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies a key feature of the legislation • identifies a cultural practice that is unique to Torres Strait Islander peoples 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies a key feature of the legislation <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifies a cultural practice that is unique to Torres Strait Islander peoples 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0

Q	The response:	M
Evaluating		
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes an insightful judgment about the extent to which the legislation can be viewed as an act of reconciliation • includes a thorough explanation that supports the judgment 	5
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes a judgment about the extent to which the legislation can be viewed as an act of reconciliation • includes a detailed explanation that supports the judgment 	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes a judgment about the extent to which the legislation can be viewed as an act of reconciliation • includes an appropriate explanation that supports the judgment 	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes a statement about the legislation • refers to evidence from Source 8 or Source 9 	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes a statement about the legislation <li style="text-align: center;">OR • makes a statement about Source 8 or Source 9 	1
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0

Q	The response:	M
Creating		
4	· organises sentences purposefully and fluently to convey ideas relating to the question	3
	· uses sentences to convey ideas relating to the question	2
	· conveys ideas relating to the question	1
	· does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0

Sample response

The *Meriba Omasker Kaziw Kazipa Act* can be viewed as a powerful act of reconciliation. It is an example of how Western law can be aligned with cultural practices. The new law, passed unanimously by the Queensland Government, enshrines in legislation the continuing and unbroken ancient, cultural practice of Torres Strait Islander peoples where children are raised in extended families or kinship groups. Torres Strait Islander leaders have been advocating for legalisation of this practice for decades and there have been several influential reports, such as the *Bringing Them Home* report, which identified that Aboriginal children and Torres Strait Islander children had the right to enjoy their own culture, signified by this unique child-rearing practice.

In the past, these family relationships were not recognised by law and resulted in many identification barriers, such as difficulty obtaining important legal documents. These barriers resulted in difficulties accessing services that required official forms of identification, such as education, health and housing services. The new law removes these legal barriers, meaning young people who are raised through traditional child-rearing practices are not disadvantaged. This will work to create a more equitable society.

Even though this law addresses the cultural practices of Torres Strait Islander peoples, it demonstrates how governments across Australia can enact legislation that bridges the gap between lore and Western law. It also indicates a willingness by the Queensland Parliament to work with Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure that this enduring, ancient cultural practice continues and is valued.

Q	The response:	M
Defining, using and demonstrating understanding		
5	· demonstrates an accurate understanding of the concept of recognition in the context of the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017</i>	3
	· demonstrates a basic understanding of the concept of recognition in the context of the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017</i>	2
	· makes a relevant statement about the concept of recognition that refers to the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017</i>	1
	· does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0
Analysing		
5	· identifies and explains how the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017</i> reflects all 6 aspects of Dr Ernie Grant's holistic framework	5
	· identifies and explains how the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017</i> reflects 5 aspects of Dr Ernie Grant's holistic framework	4
	· identifies and explains how the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017</i> reflects 4 aspects of Dr Ernie Grant's holistic framework	3
	· identifies and explains how the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017</i> reflects 3 aspects of Dr Ernie Grant's holistic framework	2
	· identifies and explains how the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017</i> reflects 2 aspects of Dr Ernie Grant's holistic framework	1
	· does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0

Evaluating			
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · makes an insightful judgment about the extent to which the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017</i> can be considered an act of recognition · includes a thorough explanation that supports the judgment · effectively uses evidence from Source 10 to support the judgment 	5	<p>An <i>insightful judgment</i> is one that shows an understanding of the complexity of the situation, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the Act is a significant act of recognition as it enshrines the connection between the Woi-wurrung people and the Birrarung in legislation – or other suitable responses consistent with a reasonable understanding. <p>A <i>thorough explanation</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – includes all that is required – is not superficial or partial – is linked to the judgment made in the response. <p>A <i>detailed explanation</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – demonstrates attention to the fine points – is linked to the judgment made in the response. <p>An <i>appropriate explanation</i> makes an idea clear by describing it in more detail or by revealing relevant facts. It must refer to information from the source, e.g.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – the use of traditional language throughout the Act – incorporation of elements of the Woi-wurrung Dreaming – or other suitable responses consistent with a reasonable understanding.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · makes a judgment about the extent to which the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017</i> can be considered an act of recognition · includes a detailed explanation that supports the judgment · refers to relevant evidence from Source 10 to support the judgment 	4	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · makes a judgment about the extent to which the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017</i> can be considered an act of recognition · includes an appropriate explanation that supports the judgment · refers to relevant evidence from Source 10 	3	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · makes a relevant statement about the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017</i> · describes a relevant aspect of the Act 	2	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · makes a statement about the <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murrong) Act 2017</i> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · makes a statement about recognition 	1	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · does not satisfy any of the descriptors above. 	0	

Creating			
5	· organises sentences purposefully and fluently to convey ideas relating to the question	3	
	· uses sentences to convey ideas relating to the question	2	
	· conveys ideas relating to the question	1	
	· does not satisfy any of the descriptors above.	0	
Sample response			
<p>The <i>Yarra River Protection (Wilip-gin Birrarung murron) Act</i> is a significant act of recognition. Its formal recognition of the Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Owners of the land recognises their unique connection to the land as both Traditional Owners and custodians.</p> <p>The decision to use the Woiwurrung language in both the title and body of the Act is a significant act of recognition. It demonstrates a movement towards a greater acknowledgement and appreciation of the culture of the Aboriginal peoples in Victoria. It moves beyond a simple acknowledgment with the traditional name of the Yarra River (the Birrarung) in its title by also first including an extended statement in Woi-wurrung, followed by an English translation. This is a significant act of recognition as it ensures that the Woi-wurrung language and some key cultural practices of the Woi-wurrung people are enshrined into Victorian law.</p> <p>The preamble highlights the key points that the Woi-wurrung people and the Birrarung have been inseparable from the beginning of time and will continue to be so. This relationship extends past ownership since, for the Woi-wurrung people, the Birrarung is more than just a watercourse. It is a living entity, with a heart and spirit, one that they have a responsibility to care for. The excerpt shows that this relationship stretches from the beginning of time to generations to come. The Birrarung is part of their Dreaming and this important Act recognises that the Birrarung continues to be integral to the cultural identity of the Woi-wurrung people.</p>			



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