

Approach: One to one
Focus: Current events in New Zealand
Resources: None

Year: 4 & 8

Questions / instructions:

There are lots of very important things happening in New Zealand.

1. Can you tell me about **three important** things that are happening in New Zealand at the moment? Think about what is in the newspaper, on the TV or on the radio.

First important thing:

	% response 2009 ('05)	year 4	year 8
Location/Focus:			
national	28 (37)	50 (78)	
regional or local	19 (17)	19 (7)	
international	17 (10)	11 (9)	
Timing:			
specific current event	51 (49)	55 (84)	
ongoing issue/activity	12 (15)	24 (9)	
Activity category:			
law and order/criminal	14 (8)	12 (5)	
natural (e.g. natural disaster, weather)	20 (14)	16 (5)	
political/economic (e.g. war, oil price)	6 (20)	21 (67)	
sporting	7 (8)	15 (11)	
social (e.g. new movie, visitors to New Zealand)	13 (13)	13 (4)	
personal (e.g. winning prize, birthday)	4 (2)	3 (2)	

Second important thing

Location/Focus:			
national	16 (18)	36 (47)	
regional or local	13 (11)	13 (15)	
international	9 (6)	6 (9)	
Timing:			
specific current event	28 (28)	37 (58)	
ongoing issue/activity	8 (5)	17 (13)	
Activity category:			
law and order/criminal	7 (6)	9 (10)	
natural (e.g. natural disaster, weather)	9 (6)	8 (8)	
political/economic (e.g. war, oil price)	4 (8)	14 (27)	
sporting	5 (5)	11 (16)	
social (e.g. new movie, visitors to New Zealand)	8 (7)	8 (8)	
personal (e.g. winning prize, birthday)	4 (2)	3 (3)	

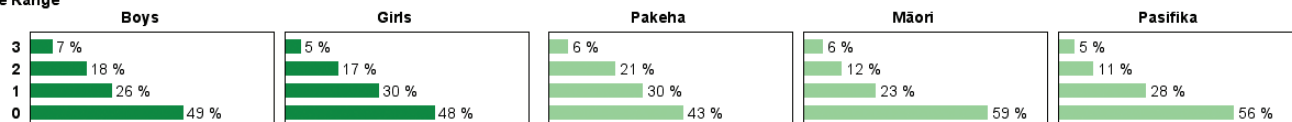
THIRD IMPORTANT THING

Location/Focus:			
national	6 (13)	22 (27)	
regional or local	7 (10)	8 (7)	
international	3 (4)	3 (7)	
Timing:			
specific current event	13 (21)	24 (35)	
ongoing issue/activity	2 (4)	9 (6)	
Activity category:			
law and order/criminal	2 (5)	9 (6)	
natural (e.g. natural disaster, weather)	3 (4)	3 (4)	
political/economic (e.g. war, oil price)	1 (5)	9 (13)	
sporting	3 (5)	6 (13)	
social (e.g. new movie, visitors to New Zealand)	4 (6)	5 (4)	
personal (e.g. winning prize, birthday)	1 (0)	2 (1)	
Quality of description:			
clear full description	6 (5)	19 (20)	
moderately good description	18 (19)	30 (34)	
very limited description	28 (33)	28 (36)	
no useful response	48 (43)	23 (10)	
Total Score:			
3	6 (5)	19 (20)	
2	18 (19)	30 (34)	
1	28 (33)	28 (36)	
0	48 (43)	23 (10)	

Subgroup Analyses:

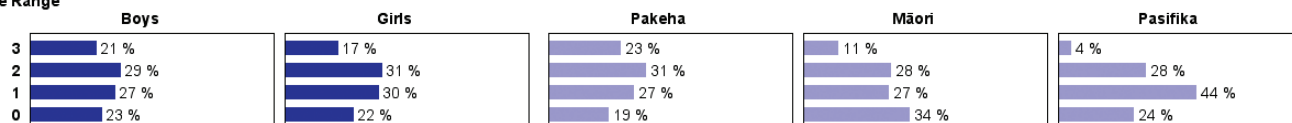
Year 4

Score Range



Year 8

Score Range



Commentary:

When asked to name an event in the news, in 2005 the national election was the big news item, particularly for year 8 students. In 2009, responses were more diverse. Performance was very similar in 2005 and 2009. Year 4 Pakeha, Māori and Pasifika students performed similarly.