

# Task: World Current Events

Approach: One to one  
Focus: Awareness and knowledge of world current events  
Resources: None

Year: 4 & 8

## Questions / instructions:

There are lots of very important things happening in the world.

- Can you tell me about **three important** things that are happening in the world at the moment?

Think about what is in the newspaper, on the TV or on the radio.

### First important thing:

Location/Focus:		% responses	
		y4	y8
Location/Focus:	international	33	59
	national	18	29
	regional or local	4	1
	no relevant response	45	11
Timing:	specific current event	45	78
	ongoing issue/activity	10	11
	no relevant response	45	11
Activity category:	natural (e.g. natural disaster, weather)	25	35
	political/economic (e.g. war, oil price)	13	45
	sporting	5	5
	social (e.g. new movie, visitors to New Zealand)	10	4
	no relevant response	47	11

### Second important thing:

Location/Focus:		% responses	
		y4	y8
		y4	y8
		y4	y8
Location/Focus:	international	26	44
	national	11	26
	regional or local	4	2
	no relevant response	59	28
Timing:	specific current event	35	55
	ongoing issue/activity	6	17
	no relevant response	59	28
Activity category:	natural (e.g. natural disaster, weather)	18	15
	political/economic (e.g. war, oil price)	7	43
	sporting	6	6
	social (e.g. new movie, visitors to New Zealand)	8	8
	no relevant response	61	28

### Third important thing:

Location/Focus:		% responses	
		y4	y8
		y4	y8
		y4	y8
Location/Focus:	international	16	32
	national	9	16
	regional or local	1	2
	no relevant response	74	50
Timing:	specific current event	22	38
	ongoing issue/activity	4	11
	no relevant response	74	51
Activity category:	natural (e.g. natural disaster, weather)	11	7
	political/economic (e.g. war, oil price)	5	27
	sporting	4	7
	social (e.g. new movie, visitors to New Zealand)	5	8
	no relevant response	75	51

- Choose one of these important things and tell me as much as you know about it.

### Description of important thing:

		% responses	
		y4	y8
		y4	y8
		y4	y8
	clear full description	5	25
	moderately good description	16	32
	very limited description	34	31
	no useful response	45	12

Total score:		% responses	
		y4	y8
		y4	y8
		y4	y8
		y4	y8
		y4	y8
Total score:	16–18	8	25
	13–15	8	20
	10–12	14	24
	7–9	11	7
	4–6	22	17
	1–3	3	0
	0	34	7

## Commentary:

Thirty-four percent of year 4 students could not identify one world current event but 16 percent of year 4 students scored quite highly on this task (compared to 45 percent of year 8 students).