

Alpine Instructor – Level 2



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Assessment Guide For Assessors and Candidates

Assessment Notes

This Assessment Guide is to assist assessors with judging a candidate's competency. All judgements must be based on current good practice and industry standards. This guide is also to help candidates know what they will be assessed on and what assessment tasks they will be asked to complete.

Assessors use three types of direct evidence to judge a candidate's competency:

- Written questions / assignment.
- Oral questions and discussion.
- Observation of practical tasks.

Technical Competence

1. Describe alpine climbing history and ethics

The candidate will have understanding and awareness of:

- The development of alpine climbing as a sport and current developments and trends
- The DOC Climbing Care Code
- Current ethical issues in alpine climbing e.g. bolting, helicopter access, human waste disposal

2. Demonstrate and/or describe the care and correct use of alpine climbing equipment

The candidate will:

- Role model the use of gear and equipment that is in good condition, well maintained and is used in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations and current best practice
- Describe the advantages and disadvantages of contemporary equipment used for alpine climbing and reasons for choice e.g. ropes, belay and abseil devices, karabiner types, snow stakes and pigs, ice screws, harnesses, helmets, ice axes and hammers, probes, shovels, avalanche transceivers
- Complete a pre-activity check of equipment and describe how to identify worn/damaged equipment and the checking/logging system of the equipment used

3. Demonstrate route selection and navigation skills in alpine terrain

- The skills required to navigate across alpine terrain in a whiteout, using a range of navigational aids e.g. map, compass, GPS, altimeter

4. Demonstrate technical mountaineering skills

The following will be demonstrated on terrain that is within the scope of the NZOIA Alpine Instructor Level 2 qualification.

The candidate will demonstrate:

- Tying knots suitable for the application they are being used
- Movement techniques to maintain sure footing at all times in all conditions
- Cramponing flat-footed techniques on slopes to 35°
- Lead climbing on steep snow or ice to 60°
- Leading climbing on alpine rock to grade 10
- Steep ice climbing techniques on slopes to 90° (top-roped demonstration)
- Performing a self-arrest from several positions
- Ridge travel to show rope management e.g. moving together, short pitches for awkward section
- The use of short roping to safeguard a client
- Efficient rope management techniques on a multi-pitch climb, abseil or lower
- The construction of anchors suitable to the conditions :
 - Rock anchors e.g. wires, stoppers, hexes, camming devices
 - Snow anchors e.g. vertical snow stake, snow pig, mid-clip, T-slot, snow bollard
 - Ice anchors e.g. ice screws, ice bollard, V-thread
- Safe and efficient belay methods suitable for the application they are being used:
 - Describing the advantages and disadvantages of a variety of belay methods and their suitability for managing leaders and/or seconds e.g. Italian hitch, manual locking belay device, standing ice axe belay (Austrian or Stomper), waist/shoulder belay, direct belay
 - Escaping the system for rescue purposes
 - Clear communication and systematic checks
 - Efficient rope management techniques
- The construction of an emergency snow shelter suitable for surviving a night in adverse weather conditions

5. Construct a top rope climbing system

The candidate will construct a top rope climbing system for an ice-climbing or mixed climbing session which demonstrates:

- Use of a personal safety system while exposed to a potential fall during setup (lead climb up or top access)

6. Demonstrate and apply knowledge of glaciated terrain skills

The candidate will:

- Be able to describe glacier processes and identify landforms associated with glaciation
- Describe the hazards associated with glaciated terrain and considerations for selecting a safe route through glaciated terrain

- Demonstrate roping up for glacier travel
- Demonstrate crevasse rescue:
 - Hold a fall; build anchor, transfer load to the anchor and escape the system, check victim by doing a self-protected abseil, prussic back to stance, construct hauling system, preparing lip as required, haul with assistance from victim and turn this into an unassisted haul for an unconscious victim.

7. Demonstrate avalanche and snow safety skills

- Obtain and describe the significance of the weather and avalanche hazard forecast for the assessment area
- Demonstrate making route selection and activity location choices that fit with the weather and avalanche hazard forecast and minimise exposure to avalanches
- Be able to demonstrate any skills or knowledge contained within the Avalanche Risk Management Stage 1 qualification

The Environment

8. Demonstrate knowledge of meteorology and apply weather interpretation and forecasting skills

The candidate will:

- Be able to describe global weather systems and global influences on New Zealand's weather e.g. Coriolis Effect, Hadley Cells, El Niño, La Niña
- Demonstrate the ability to anticipate weather conditions from changes in clouds, temperature, wind direction and barometric pressure in a mountain area of New Zealand and based on these observations make a 24 hour forecast

9. Role model exemplary environmental practices

The candidate will:

- Demonstrate and/or describe the responsibilities to land owners and other users, including access protocols and issues
- Have an understanding of the broader social and political issues regarding land use, resource management and conservation in New Zealand's alpine regions, and the affects of these on outdoor recreation
- Demonstrate ways to minimise rubbish and deal with biodegradable waste to avoid pollution of waterways in the alpine environment
- Role model the principles of Leave No Trace and/or the New Zealand Environmental Care Code

10. Demonstrate and/or describe cultural and environmental knowledge of the New Zealand alpine environment

The candidate will:

- Demonstrate a broad knowledge of the flora, fauna, geology and history of the New Zealand's alpine regions
- Understand and connect concepts of tikanga Māori to the alpine environment e.g. Kaitiakitanga, creation stories
- Have significant knowledge of and be able to describe the history and purpose of the major organisations involved in the administration, protection and advocacy of New Zealand's alpine environments e.g. DOC, NZ Alpine Club, Federated Mountain Clubs, Mountain Safety Council, Forest and Bird

Group Management and Leadership

11. Apply effective safety management

The candidate will:

- Manage participants' safety by appropriate; route and site selection, and equipment use and checks as required
- Demonstrate assessing climbing routes for hazards and demonstrate risk management principles to minimize or avoid the impact of any identified hazards
- Use an effective communication and a systematic checking system with participants
- Have a first aid kit and be able to deal with first aid situations if required
- Never compromise their personal safety or the safety of their participants
- Demonstrate safe practices and good judgment and decision making within the scope of this qualification

12. Lead and manage participants during alpine climbing

The candidate will be responsible for participants during a climbing session, which may include; top rope, lead and multi-pitch climbing. The candidate will demonstrate:

- Effective briefing and debriefing
- Supervising and coaching climbers and belayers
- A leadership style that is appropriate for the participants; their skill and experience level and their needs
- Establishing rapport with participants and having an awareness of their emotional, cultural or other needs
- Manage participants safely and effectively both climbing and descending

Instruction

13. Instruct safe, well managed and positive learning experiences for participants

The candidate will provide participants with effective instruction in the following climbing skills:

- Use of terrain and route-selection
- Snow, Ice and Rock movement skills
- Placing protection for lead climbing
- Efficient and safe belaying of a lead climber including clear communication between belayer and climber
- Climbing and descending a multi-pitch route
- Ice and mixed climbing techniques

The candidate will use:

- A logical sequence of teaching progressions
- Clear demonstrations and explanations

14. Prepare and deliver teaching sessions

- The candidate will prepare and deliver teaching sessions on any topics or skills contained in the NZOIA Alpine Instructor 2 syllabus which may include, but is not limited to - anchor building, snow safety and avalanche rescue, glaciated terrain travel and crevasse rescue, ethics and issues, ice and mixed climbing techniques.

The candidate will demonstrate:

- A range of teaching skills e.g. introduction, appropriate voice, language and body language, teaching/visual aids, demonstrations, use of teachable moments, evaluation of learning
- A wide knowledge of the topics and skills
- Creating a positive learning environment which encourages enthusiasm, interest and learning