

Question 30 (7 marks)

Geological and biological history of New Zealand

<i>Event</i>	<i>Time</i>
Australia and New Zealand separated	85–65 million years ago
New Zealand drifted east and subsided, its land mostly under seawater (most fossils are marine)	85–22 million years ago
Mammals became abundant worldwide	60 million years ago
Earliest migratory bird fossils	55 million years ago
New land created by volcanoes in New Zealand	22 million years ago to present
Many new, unique species of birds appear in the fossil record	20 million years ago to present
Islands completely devoid of mammals. Birds occupied niches that were usually occupied by mammals	700 years ago

Use this information and other relevant knowledge to demonstrate how the practice of biology has led to the validation of current theories of evolution.

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