



Mana Tohu Mātauranga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Qualifications Authority

Aide-Memoire: Assessor support and resources to support NCEA Level 1 implementation

To:	Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education
From:	Dr Grant Klinkum, Chief Executive
Date:	26 January 2024
Reference:	OC00589

Purpose

1. This aide memoire provides you with an overview of NZQA assessment support to schools and teachers for the implementation of the new Level 1 achievement standards for the National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA).

Background

2. NZQA is responsible for the administration of external assessment for NCEA and for the external moderation of school-based assessment to ensure qualifications, credentials and assessments are fair, valid and consistent nationally.
3. NZQA supports the assessment capability of teachers. Over the last few years, NZQA's assessor support has expanded to meet the changing demands from the sector. Appendix One provides an overview of the support available as the new Level 1 achievement standards and NCEA are implemented.
4. In particular, the external moderation of school-based assessment has undergone changes to ensure the sector is supported as the new NCEA achievement standards are implemented. These changes strengthen the quality assurance of school-based assessment and have a focus on improving sector capability.

Support Materials

Assessment Guidance

5. Assessment guidance includes exemplars of student responses at each grade (Achieved, Merit, and Excellence). These provide teachers with examples of the nature and quality of evidence required to achieve the standard and/or higher grades.
6. Where standards have changed significantly from those piloted, there are no existing pieces of student work that can be used to create exemplars. In these instances:
 - for NZ Curriculum standards, the Ministry of Education is developing expected student responses for internally assessed standards and NZQA is developing them for externals.
 - for Te Marautanga o Aotearoa (TMoA), NZQA is developing expected student responses for both internally and externally assessed standards.

The following publication dates apply:

- By 31 January 2024, for Science and Mathematics & Statistics. ✓
- By 31 January 2024, 80% assessment guidance for internally assessed standards. ✓
- By 31 March 2024, assessment guidance for all internally and externally assessed standards. ✓

NB. All will be progressively loaded on the website as they are completed.

Exemplar progress as at 20 January 2024

7. We have:
 - published 30 out of 64 exemplars for NZ Curriculum internally assessed standards. ✓
 - published 9 out of 20 exemplars for TMOA internally assessed standards. ✓
8. Due to changes to the standards after the students completed the assessments, exemplars are not available or suitable for 11 NZC (6 external, 5 internal) and 4 TMOA (2 external and 2 internal) standards. Other guidance materials will be provided for these standards, e.g. NZC Expected Student Responses developed by the Ministry of Education, or Sample Assessments for external standards developed by NZQA (see above).

External assessment reports:

9. Assessment reports for externally assessed 2023 pilot standards will be published by 2 February. Assessment reports provide teachers with information about overall student performance in external standards and include observations from marking to guide them on knowledge and skills students require to achieve the standards.

Other guidance:

10. NZQA has reviewed the Subject Learning Outcomes for the Ministry of Education as part of the quality assurance process.

Moderation reports:

11. Each pilot school receives a moderation report for the standards they piloted. To date, 60 out of 64 NZC and 8 out of 9 TMOA moderation reports for internally assessed Level 1 standards have been shared with pilot schools.
12. Moderation reports provide detailed feedback to teachers on their assessor judgements and what teachers need to focus on. This may include reminders such as ensuring the requirements of the standard are met, what further evidence would be required to meet specific grade requirements where insufficient evidence is being provided, and where the assessment schedule is being mis-applied.

Assessor Support

13. We have been steadily increasing the number of online support options for teachers, as assessors of internally assessed achievement standards. At the end of December 2023, we had 7,761 teachers registered with Pūtake, NZQA's Learning Management System which provides online learning modules and workshops, plus live workshops and events to help assessors with the assessment of internally assessed standards. This is an increase of approximately 95% compared with the 3,761 registered users at the same time in 2022. In comparison, pre-COVID-19, there were around 400. As teachers like to do the activities in groups, the numbers of teachers we are supporting is likely to be understated.
14. Among these users, we had the following engagements in the last three months:
 - 3,283 engaged with Pūtake modules
 - 3,157 enrolled in short courses
 - 126 enrolled in longer workshops.
15. Feedback from the sector remains very positive with 94% of respondents saying that they found the materials to be easy to read, navigate and complete. We have also received very

positive feedback for our module called 'Tāku Reo, Tāku Mahi – My Voice, My Work' on academic integrity, including acceptable use of AI.

16. In addition, in the last three months we had a social media reach of 6,478 people (mostly via our NCEA Subject pages on Facebook) and 604,406 engagements with our NCEA subject pages on the NZQA website. This includes students and external assessment resources.
17. In response to feedback from the sector, in the next few months, we are trialling Webcasts for each NZ Curriculum Learning Area. These pre-recorded videos will showcase what support is available for NZC Level 1 achievement standard implementation in 2024 as well as the wider Assessor Support Programme. In out-years, these may be at the subject level.

Pilot Subject Reports

18. We are currently assembling materials to provide to the Ministry of Education about: what the pilot school data tells us by subject, what our moderators have concluded from moderating samples of internally assessed pilot student work, and what our external assessment developers and markers have concluded following the external assessments. The data analysis has already been passed to the Ministry, and other materials and overview reports will be completed progressively from now until mid-February.
19. This information, together with the pilot external evaluation reports of the teacher and learner experience being prepared Evaluation Associates, will provide the Ministry of Education with a strong evidence base for any required modifications to Level 1 standards, to inform Levels 2 and 3 achievement standards development, and any overall evaluation of the 2023 pilot(s).
20. The Ministry of Education, with support from NZQA, is preparing an Education Report focussing on NCEA assessment. This will include internal and external assessment patterns as well as an update on the use of Artificial Intelligence in Level 1 submitted reports (pilots) and achievement patterns from the Level 1 pilots overall. There are a number of challenges I know the Ministry wishes to bring to your attention with some options to consider.

Next Steps

21. We will provide you with regular updates on progress towards the publication of all support materials.



Dr Grant Klinkum

Chief Executive

26 January 2024



Hon Erica Stanford

Minister of Education

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