

## 2019 Plans for Digital Assessment

Date:	26 November 2018	NZQA Priority:	Medium
Security Level:		Report No.	CR18386

	Action Sought	Deadline
Minister of Education	a) note the plan to offer 35e text-based examination subjects in 2019 and the key supporting messages.e	December 2018

Enclosure/Appendix: Yes/No

Round Robin Yes/No

### Contact for Telephone Discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	Cellphone	1 <sup>st</sup> Contact
Andrea Gray	Deputy Chief Executive Digital Assessment Transformation	04 463 4264	Redacted s9(2)(a)e	✓

### The following departments/agencies have seen this report:

Ministry of Education       Tertiary Education Commission       Other (specify)

### Minister's Office to Complete:

Noted       Seen       Approved  
 Needs change       Withdrawn       Overtaken by Events  
 See Minister's comments       Declined

Referred to:

Comments:

## **2019 Plans for Digital Assessment**

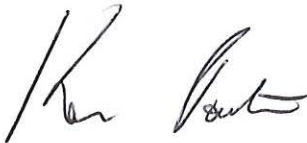
---

### Recommended Action

---

It is recommended you:

- a. **note** the plan to offer 35 text-based examination subjects in 2019 and the key supporting messages.



Karen Poutasi (Dr)  
Chief Executive  
26 November 2018

Hon Chris Hipkins  
Minister of Education

NOTED/APPROVED

...../...../.....

## 2019 Plans for Digital Assessment

### Purpose of Report

---

1. The purpose of this report is for the Minister to note the plan to offer 35 text-based examination subjects in 2019 and the key supporting messages.

### Background

---

2. In June 2018 Cabinet [SWC-18-SUB-0073 refers] agreed to continue funding NCEA Online for a further year “to enable NZQA to continue building the IT systems schools need to offer NCEA exams online by 2020. NZQA will deliver over 30 digital examinations in 2019 as part of its pilots.” For NZQA, this involves completing the solution design for NCEA Online, undertaking the initial build of the new solution and operating model, and assessing suitable subjects to offer online in 2019 at this increased scale.

### Situation

---

3. We will be advising schools and making a public announcement on Monday 3 December regarding what subjects and levels are planned. This is necessary for school planning purposes. The announcement will contain our messaging about the move online being conducted in a staged, managed way and on a school and student opt-in basis.
4. We will be using the opportunity of this announcement to speak with key education media to provide them with wider context and for them to experience first-hand part of a digital examination.

The following is what we will be telling schools, the public and other stakeholders.

5. NZQA is planning to offer 14 NCEA examination subjects online in 2019 for the end of year examination period. The subjects will comprise 35 exam sessions across Levels 1-3 and are as follows:

Agricultural and Horticultural Science (L1-3)	Art History (L1-3)	Business Studies (L1-3)
Classical Studies (L1-3)	Education for Sustainability (L2)	English (L1-3)
Health (L1-3)	History (L1-3)	Home Economics (L1-3)
Latin (L1 and 2)	Media Studies (L1-3)	Social Studies (L1-3)
Te reo Māori (L1)	Te reo Rangatira (L1)	

6. We will further expand the range of subjects in 2020 and beyond. These are most likely to be the majority of the foreign languages for which we have experience from 2016 and 2017.
7. As part of our staged, managed approach to NCEA Online, and as schools gain confidence in completing text-based exams and technology evolves, we will look at those subjects where special characters are required, such as mathematics, science and music.
8. We are continuing to work with schools and students in a co-design model to ensure technology delivers a good user experience for a particular subject before it is offered as a digital assessment that counts towards NCEA.

9. We also recognise schools are at different stages regarding their approach to digital teaching and learning and digital assessment needs to be in sync with that. We will continue offering the paper-based examinations as schools transition towards digital education.
10. Digital learning and assessment helps students prepare for how they will learn, work and live. We are delivering digital assessment because it is most relevant for students, reflecting the way they are taught and the way in which they use electronic devices every day.
11. NZQA is working closely with schools and students to ensure our approach meets their needs. We are designing and developing our external digital assessment services through working with schools and the wider education sector to ensure we get it right.
12. We will be supporting schools to prepare for digital assessment through:
  - Familiarisation - showing students and teachers the features of electronic examinations
  - School readiness - working with school staff to assess school and student readiness for digital assessment
  - Training - providing Examination Centre Managers and Supervisors with the knowledge and skills to administer the assessments.
13. NZQA's 2017 evaluation of the digital Trials and Pilots shows nearly all survey responses from students who have taken part in a digital examination preferred an online examination experience over a paper-based one. This is reflected in the 60% increase in participation in digital examinations from 2017 to 2018.
14. Since 2014, almost three quarters of New Zealand secondary schools and around 30,000 students have experienced at least one digital examination.
15. Digital Trials and Pilots during 2018 have gone well. This has included the 54 new schools experiencing Digital Trials and six new schools experiencing Digital Pilot examinations for the first time, this year.
16. Around 8,000 unique students sat NCEA examinations online in English, Classical Studies and Media Studies at levels 1-3 in 2018, a 60% increase in participation on 2017.
17. A Digital Trial is a practice assessment that does not count towards a student's NCEA but may provide evidence towards a derived grade. A Digital Pilot is sat instead of the equivalent NCEA paper examination. A printed examination paper is available for these digital examination candidates, if required. Schools and students have the choice of whether to opt in for Digital Trials and Pilots.