Assessment Specifications

Scholarship Digital Technologies 2025

Published in March 2025

General information

Performance Standard: 93604

Assessment method: Examination

Assessment medium: Digital assessment

Digital Technologies subject page

National secondary examinations timetable

Format of the assessment

There will be THREE complex questions that require:

- Algorithmic comprehension and decomposition
- Algorithm development and implementation
- Critical reflection and analysis.

The questions could be taken from ANY of the Level 8 Computational Thinking, Designing and Developing Digital Outcomes progress outcomes from the revised New Zealand Technology Curriculum (2017 update).

Equipment required

Use of NZQA-provided online portal.

Resources or information supplied

For 2025, students will be provided with a practice assessment framework to give some guidance to the potential format, expectations, and problem-solving approaches that students could employ in the final assessment.

A resource sheet will be provided in the examination.

Special notes

Students are only able to access the approved examination portal during the assessment.

Students are expected to attempt all three questions.

Students will be required to critically reflect on solutions.

Blank paper will be provided to use for rough working, but not for submission as part of the examination.

Further clarification of the standard

Algorithmic comprehension and decomposition – refers to the understanding of algorithm structure and the breaking down of algorithms into structured, logical components of sequence, selection, and iteration.

Algorithm development and implementation – refers to the designing, coding, debugging, and iterating of solutions to meet specified requirements.

Critical reflection and analysis – refers to the informed evaluating of algorithms and reflecting on cost, efficiency, correctness, and implications of solutions.

Solutions can be written in any of the following approved programming languages:

- Pseudocode (2025 only)
- Python 3
- C
- C++
- C#
- Java
- JavaScript.

The standard, including the explanatory notes and subject-specific definitions, can be found here: https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/NCEA/Scholarships/Scholarship-subjects/Digital-Technologies/Scholarship-Digital-Technologies-Performance-Standard.pdf

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information:

Aromatawai special assessment conditions