

Assessment Specifications

Scholarship Digital Technologies 2026

Published in March 2026

General information

Performance Standard:	93604
Assessment method:	Examination, end of year
Assessment medium:	Online digital examination

[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 New Zealand Curriculum (2018 update).

Further information about digital external assessment can be found on the NZQA website:

[Digital external assessment](#)

Equipment required

A computer /laptop.

Use of NZQA-provided online portal.

Resources or information supplied

For 2026, the format will remain the same as 2025. Students will be given three programming problems, that they will analyse and write algorithmic solutions for and critically reflect on.

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 not be able to run their code solutions.

Blank paper will be provided to use for working, but not submitted, 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:

- 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](#)