

## New Zealand Scholarship Psychology Performance Standard

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### Outcome description

The student will use their knowledge of psychology to analyse, interpret and critique psychological theories, studies, concepts, and research methods and findings, and communicate an informed understanding of human behaviour.

### Scholarship Performance Descriptor

The student will demonstrate aspects of high level:

- analysis and critical thinking
- integration, synthesis and application of highly developed knowledge, skills and understanding to complex situations
- logical development, precision and clarity of ideas.

### Outstanding Performance Descriptor

In addition to the requirements for Scholarship, the student will also demonstrate, in a sustained manner, aspects of:

- perception and insight
- sophisticated integration and abstraction
- independent reflection and extrapolation
- convincing communication.

### Explanatory Notes

1. This standard is derived from the Social Sciences learning area in the New Zealand Curriculum (Learning Media, Ministry of Education, 2007) up to and including Curriculum Level 8, and is related to the [Psychology Teaching and Learning Guide](#).
2. Subject specific definitions:
  - *Analysis and critical thinking* involves evaluating psychological studies, theories, and research methods to identify their strengths and limitations in advancing understanding of human behaviour.
  - *Integration, synthesis, and application* involves combining diverse theories and findings into a reasoned judgement that addresses psychological issues related to human behaviour.
  - *Logical development and clarity of ideas* requires the presentation of ideas and arguments in an accurate and concise manner with supporting evidence.
  - *Perception and insight* involves:
    - analyses of psychological issues and methods in a broader context

- evidence of independent thought, with an ability to interpret and analyse psychological principles and patterns and offer an interpretation that generates a more complete understanding of human behaviour.
  - *Sophisticated integration and abstraction* involves weaving diverse and complex ideas into a unified understanding, which lead to generalising beyond the field of psychology and contributing meaningfully to an understanding of human behaviour and mental processes.
  - *Independent reflection and extrapolation* involves reflecting on current psychological knowledge and/or proposing new directions for research in psychology.
  - *Convincing communication* involves:
    - presenting arguments and evidence in a clear, logical, and coherent manner,
    - effectively using relevant research to support claims, and to engage and persuade the reader about the complexities of human behaviour.
3. This performance standard should be read in conjunction with the Assessment Specifications for the standard, which can be accessed through the Subjects page found at [www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/).
4. Assessment against this performance standard is administered under the NZQA Assessment Rules for Schools, which can be found at [NZQA Assessment Rules](#).