

Assessment Specifications

Level 1 Chinese (Mandarin) 2026

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General information

Domain:	Chinese (Mandarin)
Standards:	91954, 91955
Assessment method:	Examination, end of year
Assessment medium:	Online digital examination

[Chinese subject page](#)

[National secondary examinations timetable](#)

Information relating to all achievement standards

The assessments will each consist of THREE questions written in English based on the texts provided.

Text choices for both standards will reflect appropriate cultural contexts, for example Chinese-speaking communities, te ao Māori, the Pacific, and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Texts will refer to events or experiences that are familiar and relevant to the candidate.

In Level 1 Chinese (Mandarin) examinations, candidates can respond in English or te reo Māori.

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

[Digital external assessment](#)

Level 1 approved vocabulary list

The Chinese (Mandarin) vocabulary list indicates language which will guide the setting of Level 1 Chinese (Mandarin) external assessments. The lists are available on the Chinese subject page.

Words outside of the approved vocabulary list will be glossed if their meaning is not evident from the text.

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information:

[Aromatawai special assessment conditions](#)

Specific information for individual achievement standards

Standard:	91954
Title:	Demonstrate understanding of written Chinese related to everyday contexts
Version:	3
Number of credits:	5

The reading resources for this standard will be printed on paper and distributed to candidates in the examination session.

Standard:	91955
Title:	Demonstrate understanding of spoken Chinese (Mandarin) related to everyday contexts
Version:	3
Number of credits:	5

Listening passages will be available online as audio files. Candidates will be able to listen to each whole passage once and then three times in sections. They can choose when to start each play but cannot pause inside each play.

Listening Notes spaces are available inside the digital examination.

Equipment required

Candidates will require headphones to listen.