

Assessment Specifications

Level 3 Chinese 2026

Published in October 2025

General information

Domain:	Chinese
Standards:	91533, 91536
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 may develop a line of argument relating to concrete and abstract matters of social interest.

In Level 3 Chinese examinations, candidates can respond in Chinese, English, or te reo Māori.

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

[Digital external assessment](#)

Vocabulary list

The Chinese vocabulary list indicates language which will guide the setting of Level 3 Chinese external assessments. The lists are available on the Chinese (Mandarin) 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:	91533
Title:	Demonstrate understanding of a variety of extended spoken Chinese texts
Version:	2
Number of credits:	5

Digital Examination

Listening passages will be available online as audio files.

Candidates will be able to listen and respond to recordings of three spoken texts, which they can hear as a whole and twice in sections. They can choose when to start each play but cannot pause inside each play. Candidates will require headphones to listen.

Listening Notes spaces are available inside the digital examination.

Equipment required

Candidates will require headphones to listen.

Paper-based Examination

Candidates will listen and respond to recordings of three spoken texts, which they will hear as a whole and twice in sections. Candidates may make notes in the listening notes spaces provided in the booklet. The listening standard is completed first.

The total duration of the recordings will be up to 45 minutes.

Standard:	91536
Title:	Demonstrate understanding of a variety of extended written and / or visual Chinese texts
Version:	2
Number of credits:	5

Resources or information supplied

Reading resources for this standard will be printed on paper and distributed to all candidates in the examination session, regardless of whether they are completing the assessments online or on paper.