

## Assessment Specifications

# Level 1 Design and Visual Communication 2026

Published in October 2025

## General information

|                                   |                                 |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Domain:</b>                    | Design and Visual Communication |
| <b>Standards:</b>                 | 92002, 92003                    |
| <b>Assessment Method:</b>         | Submitted portfolio             |
| <b>Final date for submission:</b> | 28 October 2026                 |

[Design and Visual Communication subject page](#)

[National secondary examinations timetable](#)

## Information relating to all achievement standards

### Conditions of assessment

Evidence must be produced during the 2026 school year and curated prior to submission.

Design ideas or outcomes must be candidate generated. Class exercises are not accepted.

Candidates can complete work digitally or on paper. If choosing to submit hand-drawn work, schools must check the resolution of the scanned drawings to ensure the hand-drawn lines and items are still visible for marking.

Schools will have the option of submitting material for Achievement Standard 92003 as a digital OR physical submission for 2026. Schools must ensure the resolution quality of work is appropriate, and if it is hand-drawn and scanning is likely to compromise the quality of the work, the portfolio must be physically submitted. Achievement Standard 92002 will remain as a digital submission for 2026.

The use of chatbots, generative AI, paraphrasing tools, or other tools that can automatically generate content is not permitted and material generated by these tools should not be submitted as part of the candidate's work. **CAD applications may be used.**

### Authenticity

Teachers must closely supervise the process of evidence collection to ensure that candidates:

- do not copy from another person or source without appropriate acknowledgement

- do not receive guidance, scaffolding, instruction, assistance, or assessment conditions beyond what is specified as permissible in these Assessment Specifications.

Where a teacher cannot verify that the assessment submitted is the authentic work of the candidate, they must notify NZQA of a possible Candidate Breach of External Assessment.

### Submission requirements

Please refer to individual standard information below to see assessment medium, assessment method, and file types.

#### Digital submissions

A maximum of THREE files may be submitted per standard.

Information for candidates and schools on the NZQA digital submission portal is available on the [digital submissions page](#) of the NZQA website. Schools are required to securely store a back-up copy (or originals) of all digital submissions.

#### Physical submissions

Pages may be up to a maximum size of A3 (297 x 420mm). Larger pages must be folded to A3 size. Where mock-ups, prototypes, and models have been used, photographic evidence of these may assist the presentation. Original copies should be presented for assessment if submitting physical portfolios.

The following are not acceptable:

- visual diaries
- submission material contained in clear files
- laminated materials
- additional packaging, e.g. boxes
- models – only photographs are to be submitted
- submission material on USB flash drives or MP3 players.

Refer also to other resources on the [subject page](#) of the NZQA website.

### Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information:

[Aromatawai special assessment conditions](#)

## Specific information for individual achievement standards

|                           |                                                                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Standard:</b>          | 92002                                                                           |
| <b>Title:</b>             | Develop product or spatial design ideas informed by the consideration of people |
| <b>Version:</b>           | 3                                                                               |
| <b>Number of credits:</b> | 5                                                                               |
| <b>Assessment medium:</b> | Digital submission                                                              |

Candidates will curate evidence that demonstrates their design thinking AND their consideration of people within their design ideas. Candidates will digitally submit evidence in 2D, 3D, or 4D modes or a combination of these.

Evidence submitted **must not exceed 15 A3 pages** (or equivalent). Where a 4D mode is used, duration must not exceed one minute.

Evidence may be submitted as:

- Image files (JPG, JPEG) correctly edited, ordered, oriented, and named.
- Document files (PDF) correctly edited, ordered, oriented, and named.
- Video files (MP4) correctly edited, ordered, oriented, and named.

Note that only these file types may be submitted, and that other file types may not be able to be marked.

Refer also to other resources on the [subject page](#) of the NZQA website.

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|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Standard:</b>          | 92003                                                                                    |
| <b>Title:</b>             | Use instrumental drawing techniques to communicate own product or spatial design outcome |
| <b>Version:</b>           | 3                                                                                        |
| <b>Number of credits:</b> | 5                                                                                        |
| <b>Assessment medium:</b> | Digital or physical submission                                                           |

Candidates will digitally or physically submit drawings that demonstrate the use of instrumental drawing techniques to communicate their own product or spatial design.

Candidates must submit one set of drawings for ONE design outcome. The drawings must include both orthographic (2D) AND paraline (3D) drawings. Orthographic drawings must show a minimum of two views and there must be a minimum of one paraline drawing.

It is recommended candidates include sketches or design work where the features of the design outcome have been worked out. They are necessary to clarify the intent of the instrumental drawings.

Schools must ensure the resolution quality of work is appropriate, and if it is hand-drawn and scanning is likely to compromise the quality of the work, the portfolio must be physically submitted.

Perspective drawings are not accepted for this standard.

Evidence submitted **must not exceed 5 A3 pages** (or equivalent).

Evidence may be submitted as:

- Physical portfolio.
- Image files (JPG, JPEG) correctly edited, ordered, oriented, and named.
- Document files (PDF) correctly edited, ordered, oriented, and named.

Note that only these file types may be submitted, and that other file types may not be able to be marked. Refer also to other resources on the [subject page](#) of the NZQA website.