Assessment Specifications

Level 2 Digital Technologies 2026

Published in October 2025

General information

Domain: Technology

Standards: 91898, 91899

Assessment method: Examination, end of year

Assessment medium: Online digital examination

Link to Digital Technologies

National secondary examinations timetable

Information relating to all achievement standards

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

Digital external assessment

Equipment required

Laptop or desktop computer.

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information.

Aromatawai special assessment conditions

Specific information for individual achievement standards

Standard: 91898

Title: Demonstrate undertstanding of a computer science concept

Version: 1

Number of credits: 3

Candidates will be required to respond in matching lists, short and / or extended answers (800–1500 words in total) to questions relating to their choice of ONE of the following computer science concepts:

- computer security

  OR

- encryption

For 2026, questions on impacts will focus on human factors and social impact.

For computer security, questions may cover any of the following:

- Authentication, antivirus, malware, education
- VLANs[*]
- VPNs – uses and limitations
- School security[*]
- Passwords management.

For encryption, questions may cover any of the following:

- Types of encryption (symmetric, asymmetric, hashing)
- VPNs – use of encryption
- WPA2 / WPA3-Personal and WPA2 / WPA3-Enterprise in Wi-Fi[*]
- Device encryption such as BitLocker[*]
- Passwords managers
- Digital signatures.

[*] Topics will focus on use in schools.

Standard:	91899
Title:	Present a summary of developing a digital outcome
Version:	1
Number of credits:	3

Candidates will be required to respond in short and/or extended answers (800–1500 words in total) to questions relating to a digital outcome they have developed within the past 12 months. Candidates must have developed the outcome themselves. It must not be selected or sourced from AI, the internet, or anyone else's digital product or work.

The digital outcome must be based on Level 7 of The New Zealand Curriculum (see the Teaching and Learning Guide for Digital Technologies). Outcomes at this level demonstrate purposeful design and advanced technical implementation, applying a range of tools and techniques appropriately. Examples include but are not limited to:

- a functional website with applied HTML/CSS and some interactive features
- an interactive game with original assets and coded mechanics
- a design for manufacture product with a 3D CAD model and exported production files
- a multi-page print or digital media outcome, such as a magazine or comic, with original digital assets
- a short film/video/animation with some original content, editing, and effects
- an electronic device with programmed code and purpose-built housing.

Each outcome should include at least one developed digital component that has been created, tested, and refined by the student using appropriate tools and techniques.

Questions will require the candidate to discuss:
- the digital outcome that was developed
- the process of developing the digital outcome
- decisions made during the development of the digital outcome, which may relate to:
  - sequencing of key tasks in the project
  - methods used to address end-user considerations
  - which resources to use, and why.

The discussion will require candidates to focus on how the aesthetics, functionality, usability, accessibility, social, ethical, legal, intellectual property and end-user considerations were considered during development of the digital outcome.

Special notes

As this is an online digital examination, candidates are **not required** to prepare or submit images, unlike in previous years.

The school may be required to provide a link to evidence of the candidate's digital outcome (e.g. working files), to show the development process undertaken to create the digital outcome in the software used.

Teachers are encouraged to help their students to develop answering techniques to ensure they are able to respond clearly and concisely within the total recommended word limit.