

Assessment Specifications

Level 1 Drama 2026

Published in October 2025

General information

Domain:	Drama Performance and Drama Studies
Standards:	91942, 91943
Assessment method:	Digitally submitted portfolio
Assessment medium:	Digital submission

[Drama subject page](#)

[National secondary examinations timetable](#)

Information relating to all achievement standards

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.

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.

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

Candidates should refer to [Further Guidance for Submission Responses](#) for further information.

Refer also to other resources on the subject page of the NZQA website.

Information for candidates and schools on the NZQA digital submission portal is available on the NZQA website: [Digital submission](#)

Further submission instructions and authenticity requirements will be provided for schools in Term 3, Week 1.

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information:

[Aromatawai special assessment conditions](#)

Specific information for individual achievement standards

Standard:	91942
Title:	Perform a scripted role for an audience using drama techniques
Version:	3
Number of credits:	5
Final date for submission:	28 October 2026

The candidate is required to act with, and react to, another actor using a combination of drama techniques in a scripted role, for a live audience.

The scripted role may be from an existing script, or from devised work that has resulted in a written script.

The performance may be from a rehearsal, but must be script-down (that is, the performers must have learned their lines). The performance may be directed by a teacher, tutor, or senior student.

Use of costume items or props is not required, but may assist the candidate in performing a role. Use of technology that may hinder visibility of the candidate should be avoided.

The evidence submitted should include 3–4 minutes of video from the performance. The evidence may include two separate excerpts from the same performance event (that is, no more than one edit is allowed within a candidate's evidence). Note that evidence in excess of the 4-minute limit will not be considered for assessment.

In the video, the candidate and other actors in the performance must be clearly visible at all times in the frame. (The audience does not need to be visible.)

The candidate is also required to present a brief statement of intention, either in writing (70–100 words) or as an audio or video recording (no more than 1 minute in duration). This is not marked, but assists markers in making their judgement. The statement of intention must include reference to:

- the role (noting relationships to other characters on stage or mentioned in dialogue)
- the place
- the situation.

Conditions of assessment

The candidate must not be prompted during the performance by a teacher, tutor, or senior student.

Submission requirements

Individual candidate evidence is to be submitted as a slideshow (PPT, PPTX) containing three slides:

- Details of the candidate and performance.
- The candidate's statement of intention.
- Video evidence of the candidate's performance.

The submitted slideshow must be entirely self-contained – it must not include links to content outside of the submission (e.g. a link that takes the assessor to a YouTube video or a file in Google Drive). Any such linked content will not be considered for assessment.

In the case that the teacher wishes to submit a single group performance by multiple candidates, this is to be submitted as a video file (AVI, M4V, MP4, MOV, WEBM).

The maximum file size that may be submitted is 5GB.

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

Slide 1

This slide should include the following details of the candidate and the performance. (The table below may be used as a template.)

AS 91942 Use drama techniques to perform a scripted role for an audience	
Candidate's NSN	
Candidate's role	
Title of play	
Playwright	
Brief description of candidate's in-role appearance	
Screenshot from video showing the candidate in-role	

For the marker's benefit, the candidate must be clearly identifiable from the screenshot.

Slide 2

The slide should present the candidate's statement of intention, either in writing (70–100 words) or as an embedded audio or video file (MP3, MP4 or WMA, no more than 1 minute in duration).

Slide 3

The third slide should include either:

- a single embedded video file (AVI, M4V, MP4, MOV, or WEBM format, no more than 4 minutes in duration) of the candidate's performance; or
- (if the teacher has chosen to submit a group performance by multiple candidates) an indication of the start- and end-time of the candidate's performance. (The following table may be used as a template.)

Time stamp of start of candidate performance (MM:SS).		Time stamp of end of candidate performance (MM:SS).	
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If the school does not have the required technology to embed audio or video files into a slideshow, the candidate may submit the slideshow and audio / video files separately.

The maximum (combined) file size that may be submitted is 5GB.

Standard:	91943
Title:	Respond to a drama performance
Version:	1
Number of credits:	5
Final date for submission:	28 October 2026

In response to the task below, the candidate will submit a portfolio on their response to a drama performance that they have participated in or viewed as a member of the audience during the year of the assessment.

The drama performance may be solo or ensemble. It may be a full performance or an extract (e.g. a scene). A viewed performance may be either a live performance or a recorded performance intended for a live audience.

TASK

Develop a response to a drama performance, with a personal connection to the wairua of the performance. Show development of your response over time, using evidence from the drama performance. The following questions could support your response:

- (a) How and why did the key message(s) of the drama performance have an effect on the audience? Why was this important?
- (b) How and why were a range of drama components used to create effect in the performance? (*Note: Drama components include techniques, elements, conventions, and technologies.*)
- (c) How and why did the wairua of the performance have an impact on you? You should consider your personal connection to:
 - the relationship between performers and audience
 - the intended effect of the performance on the audience
 - your personal response to the performance, including how your understanding of your response has developed over time (due to unpacking what you experienced).

Conditions of assessment

Candidates are recommended to spend no more than 4–6 hours of class time to individually research and produce their portfolio under teacher supervision.

The drama performance must be an appropriate drama for Level 6 of the curriculum to ensure candidates have the opportunity to respond at every level of achievement for this standard.

Submission requirements

The portfolio should be submitted as a slideshow (PPT, PPTX) containing an introductory slide and up to six additional slides. The additional slides may include embedded audio (MP3, WMA), image(s) (JPEG), or video (AVI, M4V, MP4, MOV, WEBM).

A submitted slideshow must be entirely self-contained – it must not include links to content outside of the submission (e.g. a link that takes the assessor to a YouTube video or a file in Google Drive). Any such linked content will not be considered for assessment.

If the school does not have the required technology to embed audio or video files into a slideshow, the candidate may submit the slideshow and audio / video files separately.

The maximum (combined) file size that may be submitted is 5GB.

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

Introductory slide

This slide should include the following details of the live performance. (The table below may be used as a template.)

AS 91943 Respond to a drama performance	
Candidate's NSN	
Title of performance	
Playwright	<i>(may be 'self-devised')</i>
Theatre company / performers	<i>(may be 'self-devised')</i>
Performance type	<i>(may be 'live performance', 'recorded performance', or 'self-devised')</i>

Additional slides (up to 6)

The body of the portfolio may contain written evidence and /or embedded audio, image(s), and video evidence:

- For written evidence, the candidate is encouraged to write a concise response of no more than 1200 words.
- For audio or video evidence, the candidate should include no more than 4 minutes of evidence in total. Audio and video evidence may include a mix of direct candidate voice, interview, recorded physical drama work accompanied by explanation, or other audio techniques.