

Assessment Specifications

Scholarship English 2026

Published in October 2025

General information

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|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Performance Standard: | 93001 |
| Assessment method: | Examination, end of year |
| Assessment medium: | Online digital examination |

[English subject page](#)

[National secondary examinations timetable](#)

Format of the assessment

The assessment is in three sections.

Candidates will be required to write three essays, each in response to a question from each section.

A physical copy of the texts will be provided to candidates completing the assessment online.

Section A: Close Reading of Unfamiliar Texts will provide two texts – one prose and one poetry – and a question requiring a comparison of the texts with emphasis on aspects of content and crafting.

Section B: Responding to Literature and Language will provide a range of questions on genres including poetry, non-fiction, film, Shakespeare, drama, novel, short story, TV series, and interactive text. Candidates will select ONE question to answer.

Section C: Exploring Issues in Literature and Language will provide a range of issues-based questions. Candidates will select ONE question to answer.

Special notes

In Sections B and C:

- candidates should demonstrate wide knowledge and wide reading, and an appreciation of aspects of genre and intertextuality
- candidates should not include the same content or quotations in their responses to the two questions.

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information:

[Aromatawai special assessment conditions](#)