

Assessment Specifications

Level 3 Education for Sustainability 2026

Published in October 2025

General information

Domain:	Environmental Sustainability
Standards:	90831, 91736
Assessment method:	Digital submission

[Education of Sustainability subject page](#)

[National secondary examinations timetable](#)

Information relating to all achievement standards

Candidates should focus on New Zealand contexts for their analyses. Refer to the exemplar material on the Education for Sustainability subject page and Explanatory Note 5 of the achievement standards for more information.

Work submitted that is below curriculum level 8 will not meet the requirements for these standards.

Candidates should focus on the quality of their investigation rather than the length of their written report. It should be a succinct summary of the overall findings, and should provide evidence of the candidate's analysis in relation to the requirements of the specific achievement standard.

The report is derived from, and draws upon, the larger body of evidence that the candidate has gathered over time. This evidence should not be included in great detail in the report but must be referenced appropriately.

The material in the report should clearly communicate the candidate's analysis of the requirements of the achievement standard, and could include:

- written explanations, summary analyses, and conclusions from key documents
- summaries of findings from research sources
- arguments and conclusions
- annotated illustrations, diagrams, tables, and visual evidence.

The use of other sources is considered valid when the candidate:

- interprets the information and integrates this into their own thinking
- relates the information to specific context(s) or examples
- comments meaningfully on the information.

Standard conventions for report-writing should be followed, e.g. cover page, executive summary, headings and sub-headings for content, and a reference list (see the subject page for advice on the report structure).

All secondary data sources must be appropriately referenced within the report, using a recognised referencing system such as APA or ACS referencing. Such referencing systems necessitate accurate citations in the reference list.

A single report must not exceed 14 single-sided A4 pages (including the cover page, table of contents, executive summary, and reference list), using a font size equivalent to Times New Roman 12. Only the first 14 pages of a report that exceeds the 14-page limit will be marked.

Conditions of assessment

Candidates' work should be developed between January and October of the year of submission. The report must be written in the candidate's own words. Material from other sources included in the report must be acknowledged.

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.

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

Evidence may be submitted as a document file (PDF, DOC, DOCX).

Candidates should refer to [Further Guidance for Submission Responses](https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/login/digital-submissions/) for further information. <https://www2.nzqa.govt.nz/login/digital-submissions/>

Refer also to other resources on the subject page at the NZQA website and the [Digital Submissions](#) page.

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information:

[Aromatawai special assessment conditions](#)

Specific information for individual achievement standards

Standard:	90831
Title:	Analyse the impact that policies have on a sustainable future
Version:	3
Number of credits:	5
Final date for submission:	28 October 2026

Candidates submit a written report that provides evidence of a systematic analysis of TWO existing policies (and their attendant practices) in relation to their impact on a sustainable future. Independent research and independent critical analysis must be evident in the report.

A [recommended report structure](#) is provided at this link.

Standard:	91736
Title:	Analyse how different world-views, and the values and practices associated with them, impact on sustainability
Version:	2
Number of credits:	4
Final date for submission:	28 October 2026

Candidates submit a written report that provides evidence of a systematic investigation into and analysis of TWO different world-views and their implications for a sustainable future. Individual research and independent critical analysis must be evident in the report.

A [recommended report structure](#) is provided at this link.