

## Assessment Specifications

# Level 3 Earth and Space Science 2026

Published in October 2025

## General information

<b>Domain:</b>	Earth and Space Science
<b>Standards:</b>	91413, 91414
<b>Assessment method:</b>	Examination, end of year
<b>Assessment medium:</b>	Printed paper

[Earth and Space Science subject page](#)

[National secondary examinations timetable](#)

## Information relating to all achievement standards

Each examination will contain resource-based and knowledge-based questions.

Candidates should be encouraged to develop their own labelled diagrams/sketches as part of their learning and assessment

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information:

[Aromatawai special assessment conditions](#)

## Specific information for individual achievement standards

<b>Standard:</b>	91413
<b>Title:</b>	Demonstrate understanding of processes in the ocean system
<b>Version:</b>	3
<b>Number of credits:</b>	4
<b>Assessment medium:</b>	Printed paper

The effects of climate change on ocean processes may be examined.

The ocean composition includes mixed layer, deep layer, pycnocline, thermocline, and halocline.

Transport of matter and energy in the ocean could include surface and deep currents, and the links between them. This may include Ekman Transport in relation to upwelling.

Changes to ocean circulation and structure may be assessed in terms of ENSO.

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<b>Standard:</b>	91414
<b>Title:</b>	Demonstrate understanding of processes in the atmosphere system
<b>Version:</b>	3
<b>Number of credits:</b>	4
<b>Assessment medium:</b>	Printed paper

The effects of climate change on atmospheric processes may be examined.

Atmosphere composition includes layers of the atmosphere (troposphere, stratosphere, mesosphere, thermosphere, exosphere, and ionosphere).

Matter is considered to be the gaseous composition of the atmosphere, as well as aerosols (e.g. pollutants, particulates) and water.

Transport of energy may include conduction, convection, radiation, latent heat, sensible heat, and albedo.