

Assessment Specifications

Level 1 Japanese 2026

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General information

Domain:	Japanese
Standards:	91958, 91959
Assessment method:	Examination, end of year
Assessment medium:	Online digital examination

[Japanese subject page](#)

[National secondary examinations timetable](#)

Information relating to all achievement standards

The assessments will each consist of THREE questions written in English based on the texts provided.

Text choices for both standards will reflect appropriate cultural contexts, for example Japanese-speaking communities, te ao Māori, the Pacific, and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Texts will refer to events or experiences in immediate and known contexts.

In Level 1 Japanese examinations, candidates can respond in English or te reo Māori.

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

[Digital external assessment](#)

Level 1 approved vocabulary list

The Japanese vocabulary list indicates language which will guide the setting of Level 1 Japanese external assessments. The list is available on the Japanese subject page.

Words outside of the approved vocabulary list will be glossed if their meaning is not evident from the text.

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information.

[Aromatawai special assessment conditions](#)

Specific information for individual achievement standards

Standard:	91958
Title:	Demonstrate understanding of written Japanese related to everyday contexts
Version:	3
Number of credits:	5

The reading resources for this standard will be printed on paper and distributed to candidates in the examination session.

Standard:	91959
Title:	Demonstrate understanding of spoken Japanese related to everyday contexts
Version:	3
Number of credits:	5

Listening passages will be available online as audio files. Candidates will be able to listen to each whole passage once and then three times in sections. They can choose when to start each play but cannot pause inside each play.

Listening Notes spaces are available inside the digital examination.

Equipment required

Candidates will require headphones to listen.