

Assessment Specifications

Level 3 Japanese 2026

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General information

Domain:	Japanese
Standards:	91553, 91556
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 may develop a line of argument relating to concrete and abstract matters of social interest.

In Level 3 Japanese examinations, candidates can respond in Japanese, English, or te reo Māori.

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

[Digital external assessment](#)

Vocabulary list

The Japanese vocabulary list indicates language which will guide the setting of Level 3 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:	91553
Title:	Demonstrate understanding of a variety of extended spoken Japanese texts
Version:	2
Number of credits:	5

Digital examination

Listening passages will be available online as audio files. Candidates will be able to listen and respond to recordings of three spoken texts, which they can hear as a whole and twice in sections. They can choose when to start each play but cannot pause inside each play. Candidates will require headphones to listen. Listening Notes spaces are available inside the digital examination.

Equipment required

Candidates will require headphones to listen.

Paper-based examination

Candidates will listen and respond to recordings of three spoken texts, which they will hear as a whole and twice in sections. Candidates may make notes in the listening notes spaces provided.

The total duration of the recordings will be up to 45 minutes.

Standard:	91556
Title:	Demonstrate understanding of a variety of extended written and / or visual Japanese texts
Version:	1
Number of credits:	5

Resources or information supplied

Reading resources for this standard will be printed on paper and distributed to all candidates in the examination session, regardless of whether they are completing the assessments online or on paper.

Candidates will read and respond to three written texts representative of different text types. The texts will contain a total of approximately 1600 kana.