

Assessment Specifications

Level 1 Visual Arts 2026

Published in October 2026

General information

Domain:	The Arts
Standards:	91914, 91915
Assessment method:	Body of work / portfolio
Assessment medium:	Digital submission

[Visual Arts subject page](#)

[National secondary examinations timetable](#)

Information relating to all achievement standards

Conditions of assessment

Candidates are to produce portfolios as defined for the individual standards.

Candidates must not use appropriated imagery in their portfolios.

Teacher involvement in candidates' production of work for submission is limited to:

- aiding in the refinement of focusing questions / ensuring that there is a suitable brief
- assisting in locating sources
- conferring with individual students during the inquiry process
- teacher observation and teacher / student conferencing to verify individual students' contributions to a collaborative process
- encouraging the student to analyse planning tools from a range of sources and select those appropriate to their practice
- supporting students to use selected planning tools to effectively manage resources and efficiently manage time and materials
- supporting the student to develop questioning and self-reflection skills
- conferencing with the student and supporting them to reflect on progress and use this to inform their next steps.

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](#) for further information.

Refer also to other resources on the [subject page](#) of the NZQA website.

Schools are required to store securely a backup copy (or originals) of all digital submissions.

Further submission instructions and authenticity requirements will be provided for schools in Term 3, Week 1.

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information:

[Aromatawai special assessment conditions](#)

Specific information for individual achievement standards

Standard:	91914
Title:	Explore Visual Arts processes and conventions to inform own art making
Version:	4
Number of credits:	5
Final date of submission:	22 October 2026

Candidates are to produce a portfolio of evidence of learning that supports the development of a finished visual artwork or works, and adheres to the requirements of the Achievement Standard.

The portfolio may include a combination of: drawings, sketches, research notes, evaluative annotations or statements, diagrams, planning notes, media trials, compositional studies, and other development work. Where original works in progress are larger than A3, are bulky, or are three-dimensional, they may be represented by high-quality photographs or scans.

Work submitted should be in development, therefore not resolved works.

Candidates will provide evidence of the following in informing their own artmaking:

- a selection of visual arts processes and conventions
- sustained application and manipulation of, and experimentation with, these visual arts processes and conventions
- reflection on the use of these visual arts processes and conventions.

Evidence must be submitted as ONE of the following formats:

Eight-page portfolio (workbook) specifications

- The paper-based portfolio should consist of 8 single-sided A3 pages.
- The portfolio must be scanned for submission as a single file (see Submission requirements below).

OR

Slideshow portfolio specifications

- The slideshow portfolio may include digital video and / or audio files, of the permitted file types (see Submission requirements below).
- Evidence should not exceed 120 seconds in total.
- The portfolio should contain no more than 8 slides, including the title slide and credits slide.

Where the portfolio (workbook) consists of more than 8 pages, verifiers will only look at the first 8 pages to make their judgement.

The portfolio content will form the evidence submitted for assessment. This assessment format is intended to be marked using a verification model. This requires schools to:

- provide provisional grades for all candidates prior to the verification process commencing
- submit a minimum sample of seven portfolios for verification, or to submit all candidate portfolios where the number of candidates is less than the minimum required • choose any combination of physical or digital portfolios for submission
- securely store a backup copy (or originals) of all digital submissions.

Submission requirements

Evidence may be submitted as:

A maximum of ONE file

Front page:	Label the front page of the workbook with school code, NSN.
External links:	The submission must be entirely self-contained – it must not include links to content outside of the submission (e.g. a link that takes the assessor to a YouTube video or a file in Google Drive). Any such linked content will be excluded from assessment.
Permitted file types:	Document: PDF, DOC, DOCX Slideshow: PPT, PPTX; if embedded audio: MP3, WMA or if embedded video: AVI, M4V, MP4, MOV, WEBM
File size:	maximum of 5GB

Note that only the permitted file types may be submitted, and that other file types may not be able to be marked.

Standard:	91915
Title:	Create a sustained body of related artworks in response to an art making proposition
Version:	3
Number of credits:	5
Final date of submission:	22 October 2026

Candidates are to produce a portfolio of artwork, submitted as ONE of the following formats:

Single-panel portfolio specifications

- The portfolio consists of ONE A1 (594 × 841 mm or approx.) cardboard panel.
- The portfolio is curated in landscape orientation.
- The portfolio is photographed for submission

Moving image portfolio specifications

- The moving image portfolio allows the use of an accumulated total of no more than 60 seconds of digital video and / or audio files with static images, representing the requirements of the standard.
- Music or sound included in the portfolio must be either an original composition(s) or music for which copyright has been obtained, and must be referenced in credits at the end of the submission.

- The body of work for the portfolio / video includes a similar amount of work as for the single-panel portfolio.

The portfolio content will form the evidence submitted for assessment. This assessment format is intended to be marked using a verification model. This requires schools to:

- provide provisional grades for all candidates prior to the verification process commencing
- submit a minimum sample of seven portfolios for verification, or to submit all candidate portfolios where the number of candidates is less than the minimum required • choose any combination of physical or digital portfolios for submission
- securely store a backup copy (or originals) of all digital submissions.

Submission requirements

Evidence may be submitted as:

A maximum of ONE digital file

Labelled:	Label the portfolio board with school code, NSN.
------------------	--

Permitted file types:	Photograph: JPG, JPEG Video: AVI, M4V, MP4, MOV, WEBM
------------------------------	---

File size:	maximum of 5GB
-------------------	----------------

Note that only the permitted file types may be submitted, and that other file types may not be able to be marked.
