

27 March 2009

S2009/009  
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**TO:                   Principal  
                          Principal's Nominee  
                          All Teachers**

**Update: Assessment Specifications for the External Assessment of Levels 1, 2 and 3 Achievement Standards and Scholarship for 2009**

Assessment specifications explain the assessment parameters for each externally assessed standard. They include information such as the format of the paper, the equipment students can bring and use, and the context for questions where appropriate. They should be read alongside the applicable standards.

There are also assessment specifications for the non examination-based externally assessed standards in Graphics, Technology and Visual Arts.

Please check these sources of information to prepare for externally assessed standards:

- registered versions of all achievement standards and Scholarship performance standards
- the Assessment and Certification Rules and Procedures for Secondary Schools
- sample papers for externally assessed achievement standards
- previous examination papers and the relevant assessment reports
- the examination timetable.

**Scholarship**

Assessment specifications for Scholarship are on the NZQA website at:  
[www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/acrp/secondary/6/63.html](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/ncea/acrp/secondary/6/63.html)

If you have difficulty downloading any resources from the website, hard copies are available from NZQA Customer Resource Services: telephone 04 463 3089 or fax 04 382 6897.

## Updated assessment specifications

The 2009 external assessment specifications in some subject areas have changed to provide further clarification and interpretation. Teachers should not need to alter their teaching programmes as a result of this update.

Those subjects with changed assessment specifications for 2009 are listed below. The updated specifications are now available on the NZQA website.

NCEA Level 1	NCEA Level 2	NCEA Level 3
Accounting Biology and Human Biology Dance Economics Geography German History Japanese Mathematics Music Physics Social Studies Spanish Te Reo Māori	Accounting Art History Classical Studies Dance Education for Sustainability History Mathematics Media Studies Music Physics Social Studies Te Reo Māori	Accounting Classical Studies Dance Drama Geography Mathematics Media Studies Physics Social Studies Te Reo Māori

Scholarship
Accounting Economics Geography

## Enquiries

Please refer any enquiries relating to this circular to:

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Circulars are available from the New Zealand Qualifications Authority website:  
[www.nzqa.govt.nz/publications/circulars](http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/publications/circulars)