

Links – [green](#) outside rules, [blue](#) inside rules

**Assessment (including Examination) Rules
for
Tertiary Education Organisations with
Consent to Assess
Entering Candidates for
Achievement Standards 2021**



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Table of contents

1. Authority, commencement and application
2. Definitions
3. Acronyms commonly used in these Rules
4. Application of these Rules
5. Responsibilities of the TEO
6. Assessment and related requirements
 - 6.1 TEO consent to assess is necessary
 - 6.2 TEO assessment processes
 - 6.3 Student eligibility for external assessment
 - 6.4 Conditions of entry
 - 6.5 Exclusions List
 - 6.6 Candidate failure to pay entry fees
7. School Rules that apply to these Rules
 - 7.1 Application of School Rules
 - 7.2 General modifications
 - 7.3 Policies and procedures
 - 7.4 Specific Rules
 - 7.4.1 Timing of Assessment – External Assessment
 - 7.4.2 Special Assessment Conditions
 - 7.4.3 Reporting
 - 7.4.4 Use of Technology and Equipment for Assessment Purposes
 - 7.4.5 Assessment Specifications
 - 7.4.6 Translation of External Assessments and Moderation Materials
 - 7.4.7 Managing National Assessment
 - 7.4.8 Internal Moderation
 - 7.4.9 External Moderation
 - 7.4.10 Breaches of the Rules – Internal Assessment

- 7.4.11 Assessment Opportunities for Internal Assessment
- 7.4.12 General Conditions for External Assessment
- 7.4.13 Examination Centres
- 7.4.14 Breaches of the Rules – External Assessment
- 7.4.15 Appeal and Review of an Appeal Decision – External Assessment
- 7.4.16 Derived Grade Process
- 7.4.17 External Assessment by other than NZQA Examinations
- 7.4.18 Assessment of Common Assessment Tasks (CAT)
- 7.4.19 Return of External Assessment Material
- 7.4.20 Review or Reconsideration of External Assessment Results
- 7.4.21 Credit Exclusion

1. Authority, commencement and application

- a. These rules are made under section 452 (1) (m) of the Education and Training Act 2020, and are called the *Assessment (including Examination) Rules for Tertiary Education Organisations with Consent to Assess Entering Candidates for Achievement Standards 2021*.
- b. These Rules
 - i. are effective from 1 February 2021; and
 - ii. replace the previous *Assessment (including Examination) Rules for Tertiary Education Organisations with Consent to Assess Entering Candidates for Achievement Standards 2020*, which are consequentially revoked.
- c. These Rules specify requirements for assessment and examination of Candidates entered by Tertiary Education Organisations in achievement standards listed on the Directory of Assessment Standards.
- d. The principles of fairness, validity and consistency of assessment practice for all Candidates are fundamental to the administration of assessment standards in Tertiary Education Organisations and underpin these Rules.

2. Definitions

In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires:

Act means the [The Education and Training Act 2020](#)

Achievement Standard or **Standard** means an assessment standard listed on the Directory of Assessment Standards that is identified as an Achievement standard.

Appointed staff member means the staff member within a TEO, appointed by the TEO under Rule 5.1.

Assessment refers to collecting and evaluating evidence to establish the level of an individual's performance, whether carried out by external methods (common assessment tasks, examinations and portfolio submissions), internal methods, or a combination of external and internal methods, or any other approved method.

Assessment opportunity refers to an instance where an opportunity is given to a Candidate to be assessed against a standard.

Candidate means a Student entered for Achievement standards on the [Directory of Assessment Standards](#).

Common Assessment Task or **CAT** is an assessment task that is developed by NZQA, for the purposes of [Rule 7.1.4](#) of the *School Rules*

Consent to assess is the consent granted to an institution under section 449 of the Act to assess students against standards on the Directory.

Derived grades are only available for external assessment and use pre-existing standard-specific evidence of achievement to give a grade to a Candidate.

Directory or **Directory of Assessment Standards** is provided for in [section 437 of the Act](#).

Entry refers to the information sent by an education organisation to NZQA indicating the externally assessed achievement standards a Candidate is being assessed against.

Exclusions list means the list maintained and published by NZQA of unit standards and achievement standards that have been identified as having the same learning outcomes.

Fee Schedule means the schedule of fees charged by NZQA and published on its website pursuant to section 457 of the Act.

NZQA means The New Zealand Qualifications Authority as continued under [section 430 of the Act](#).

New Zealand Qualifications Framework or **NZQF** means the framework provided for in [section 436 of the Act](#).

Publish means to make available on the [NZQA website](#).

Qualification means a qualification listed on the NZQF.

New Zealand Record of Achievement means an individual student's transcript of standards credited to the student, and national or New Zealand qualifications completed, maintained by NZQA.

School means any relevant school as defined in [section 10 of the Act](#) which has consent to assess.

School Rules refer to *The Assessment (including Examination) Rules for Schools with Consent to Assess 2021*.

TEO or Tertiary Education Organisation is an institution (*as that term is defined in section 10(1) and 10(5)(a) of the Act*) with consent to assess against the achievement standards in respect of which a student studying or training at or through the TEO is entered.”

Verified means a sample of grade judgements is externally confirmed

3. Acronyms commonly used in these Rules

NZQA	New Zealand Qualifications Authority
NZQF	New Zealand Qualifications Framework
TEO	Tertiary Education Organisation

4. Application of these Rules

- 4.1 These rules apply to TEOs which enter Candidates for internal and external assessment and examination in achievement standards.

5. Responsibilities of the TEO

- 5.1 The TEO must appoint a staff member who is competent to perform, and will perform, the following duties:
- (a) maintaining and monitoring quality assurance practices within the TEO to ensure the validity and credibility of assessment against achievement standards;
 - (b) liaising with NZQA and responding to NZQA communications and requests for information, ensuring the integrity and quality of data forwarded to NZQA;
 - (c) contacting NZQA (schoolsliasion@nzqa.govt.nz) to make arrangements for entry of Candidates for externally assessed achievement standards; and
 - (d) considering and making recommendations to NZQA on applications for derived grades and special assessment conditions for externally assessed achievement standards.

6. Assessment and related requirements

6.1 TEO consent to assess is necessary

The TEO must hold consent to assess against the achievement standards entered by its Candidates.

6.2 TEO assessment processes

Processes used by a TEO to assess Candidates will be in accordance with the content of the Achievement Standards that are listed on the Directory, and their assessment specifications that are published by NZQA.

6.3 Student eligibility for external assessment

6.3.1 A student is eligible to be entered as a Candidate for assessment against an externally assessed achievement standard who:

- (a) meets any eligibility criteria specified in the standard concerned; and
- (b) has entries for the standards concerned forwarded to NZQA by the TEO.

6.3.2 A Candidate is not eligible for assessment against a standard if prevented from doing so under the Breaches of the Rules (see [Rules 7.4.10](#) and [7.4.14](#) of these Rules).

6.3.3 NZQA may permit a student to be entered as a Candidate to be assessed against an externally assessed achievement standard, despite the Candidate

not meeting the eligibility criteria in [Rule 6.3.1](#) above, where NZQA considers that extenuating circumstances justify it.

6.4 Conditions of entry

Once entered for assessment, it is a condition of that entry that the Candidate:

- (a) is subject to these Rules; and
- (b) permits NZQA access to and use of the material produced by the Candidate for educational purposes (for example as published exemplars to illustrate grade boundaries).

6.5 Exclusions List

Where a Candidate is assessed against an achievement standard and a unit standard that are included in the [Exclusions List](#), only the standard with the highest credit value will be used for award of qualifications.

6.6 Candidate failure to pay entry or credit reporting fees

Candidates who are assessed against standards during a calendar year, but who have not paid the relevant entry or credit reporting fees set out in the [Fee Schedule](#), will not have results for those standards used to award qualifications.

7. School Rules that apply to these Rules

7.1 Application of *School Rules*

The *School Rules*:

- (a) apply to these Rules, as set out in Rules 7.4.1 – 7.4.21 below, as if they were made under these Rules; and
- (b) are subject to the general and specific modifications noted below.

7.2 General modifications

For the purposes of Rules 7.4.1 – 7.4.21 below, unless the context otherwise requires, the definitions in Rule 2 of the *School Rules* apply, except that throughout those Rules' references to:

- (a) *Schools* are references to TEOs;
- (b) the *Principal's Nominee* are references to the Appointed staff member;
- (c) *MNA* or *Managing National Assessment* reviews are references to a *focus area within External Evaluation and Review* or other quality assurance activities (including monitoring) undertaken by NZQA;
- (d) *NZQA examinations* are references to *examinations for externally assessed achievement standards*;
- (e) *internal assessment* and *internally assessed assessment standards* are references to *assessment of internally assessed achievement standards*;
- (f) *New Zealand Scholarship*, or *scholarship*, are not relevant to these Rules;
- (g) *unit standards* are not relevant to these Rules except in relation to Rule 7.4.21 below (relating to credit exclusion); and
- (h) reporting Not Achieved results are not relevant except in relation to Rule 7.4.10 below (relating to breaches of the rules of -internal assessment) and Rule 7.4.11 below (relating to assessment opportunities for internal assessment).

7.3 Policies and procedures

TEOs must have, and implement consistently, policies and procedures that reflect the principles of fairness, validity and consistency for all students for the following matters:

- (a) breaches of rules for internal assessment and for external assessment;
- (b) missed and late assessments, and the derived grade process;
- (c) external assessment by other than NZQA examinations;
- (d) authenticity of Candidate work submitted as assessment evidence; and
- (e) review or reconsideration of external assessment results.

7.4 Specific Rules

The rules of the *School Rules* which apply to these Rules through Rule 7.1 above are (with the cross-referenced rules of those *School Rules* in parenthesis):

7.4.1 - Timing of Assessment - External Assessment
(Rule 5.1).

7.4.2 - Special Assessment Conditions
(Rule 5.4).

7.4.3 – Reporting
(Rule 5.5).

7.4.4 - Use of Technology and Equipment for Assessment Purposes
(Rule 5.6).

7.4.5 - Assessment Specifications
(Rule 5.7).

7.4.6 - Translation of External Assessments and Moderation Materials
(Rule 5.8).

7.4.7 – Managing National Assessment
(Rule 6.3):

Specific modification:

Paragraph a. of Rule 6.2 of the *School Rules* does not apply, and instead the following paragraph applies:

- a. NZQA will review TEO systems for managing national assessment against achievement standards on the Directory:
 - i. through the annual external moderation of assessment materials and assessor decisions; and
 - ii. inclusion of them as a focus area within External Evaluation and Review or through other quality assurance activities (including monitoring) undertaken by NZQA.

7.4.8 – Internal Moderation
(Rule 6.4):

7.4.9 – External Moderation
(Rule 6.5).

7.4.10 - Breaches of the Rules – Internal Assessment
(Rule 6.6):

Specific modification:

Paragraph c. of Rule 6.5 of the *School Rules* does not apply, and instead the following paragraph applies:

- c. Where a Candidate has been found to have breached the rules, whether *knowingly or unwittingly*, and the breach undermines the credibility of the assessment, a TEO reporting the Candidate's results for an assessment standard to a School must report a "Not Achieved" to the School for the assessment standards involved.

7.4.11 – Assessment Opportunities for Internal Assessment

([Rule 6.7](#)):

Specific modification:

Paragraph g. of Rule 6.6 of the *School Rules* does not apply, and instead the following paragraph applies:

- g. Where the TEO is reporting a Candidate's results to a School, a 'Not Achieved' grade must be reported for that Candidate where the Candidate has had an adequate opportunity to be assessed but has not taken this opportunity.

7.4.12 - General Conditions for External Assessment

([Rule 7.1](#)).

7.4.13 - Examination Centres

([Rule 7.1.1](#)):

Specific modification:

Add the following paragraph to those in Rule 7.1.1 of the *School Rules*:

- i The special accommodation provision in paragraph c. of this Rule 7.1.1, and the examination centre provisions in paragraphs d. to h. of this Rule 7.1.1, only apply (*with necessary modifications, and with Rule 7.1.2 (Examination Supervision) also applying*) to a TEO where, after reasonable endeavours, the TEO has been unable to make formal arrangements to use an examination centre of the kind referred to in paragraph (a) of this Rule 7.1.1.

7.4.14 - Breaches of the Rules - External Assessment

([Rule 7.1.9](#)).

7.4.15 – Appeal and Review of an Appeal Decision - External Assessment

([Rule 7.1.10](#)).

7.4.16 - Derived Grade Process

([Rule 7.1.5](#)).

7.4.17 - External Assessment by other than NZQA Examinations

([Rule 7.1.3](#)):

Specific modification:

Paragraph d. of Rule 7.1.3 of the *School Rules* does not apply, and instead, the following paragraph applies:

- d. All Candidate work submitted for external assessment must be:
 - i. authenticated as the Candidate's own work by TEOs in accordance with their own policies and procedures for managing the authenticity of learner work submitted as assessment evidence; and
 - ii. verified under the process notified annually by NZQA to the TEO.

7.4.18 - Assessment of Common Assessment Tasks (CAT)

([Rule 7.1.4](#)):

Specific modification:

Paragraph c. of Rule 7.1.4 of the *School Rules* does not apply, and instead, the following paragraph applies:

- c. All Candidate work submitted for external assessment must be:
 - i. authenticated as the Candidate's own work by TEOs in accordance with their own policies and procedures for managing the authenticity of learner work submitted as assessment evidence; and
 - ii. verified under the process notified annually by NZQA to the TEO.

7.4.19 - Return of Achievement Standard External Assessment Material

([Rule 7.1.7](#)).

7.4.20 - Review or Reconsideration of External Assessment Results

([Rule 7.1.8](#)).

7.4.21 – Credit Exclusion

([Rule 8.2](#)).