

Derived grades

Facts

- Derived grades can only be used for external assessments.
- Sufficiently modified past NZQA assessments and keeping commercially produced practice assessments secure will help ensure students can present authentic evidence.
- Derived grades submitted must be based upon:
 - an authentic pre-existing grade
 - standard-specific evidence covering the entire standard
 - a justifiable process (either because they have been quality assured or because evidence exists that the teacher's judgements are consistent with the national standard)
 - the specified conditions of assessment.
- It is a student's decision to apply for a derived grade.
- Students are encouraged to sit the examinations, where possible. The higher grade will be reported.
- Supporting evidence may include medical evidence, a death notice or health specialist letter.
- NZQA makes the decision to approve a derived grade. A school does not have to support an application, but must still process it.
- Declined derived grade applications can be appealed.

Myths

- 'Derived grades can be used for internal assessment.'
- 'Previous unmodified NZQA papers can be used for practice assessment for generating a derived grade.'
- 'Grades from internally assessed standards can be used to provide a derived grade.'
- 'Practice assessments used for a derived grade do not have to cover the whole standard or be quality assured.'
- 'I can submit a Merit grade even if the evidence or practice assessment is only Achieved.'
- 'A student cannot apply for a derived grade if he/she sat the examination.'
- 'Only a doctor's certificate is acceptable for a medical application.'
- 'The Principal's Nominee makes the decision.'

Some other things to think about

- A school must have quality assurance processes that give it confidence that the derived grade submitted is valid and authentic (Assessment Matters A2015/0360).
- Students suffering from long-term or recurring conditions:
 - may be entitled to Special Assessment Conditions
 - may be eligible for a derived grade if there is an exacerbation of the condition just prior to the examinations
 - may have to accept that their results from practice assessments may be affected by their condition and that a derived grade would not be appropriate.
- A student may choose not to apply for a derived grade when the grade to be reported would be 'Not Achieved'.
- The derived grade process is not available for New Zealand Scholarship, as it is a competitive process.



More information

Overview of the derived grade process

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/assessment-and-moderation/managing-national-assessment-in-schools/derived-grades/>

Derived Grade guidelines

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/providers-partners/assessment-and-moderation/>