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


Derived Grade guidelines