Assessment Specifications

Level 2 Visual Arts 2026

Published in April 2026

General information

Domain:	Practical Art
Standards:	91320 (Design) 91321 (Painting) 91322 (Photography) 91323 (Printmaking) 91324 (Sculpture)
Assessment method:	Body of work / portfolio
Assessment medium:	Digital submission
Final date of submission:	28 October 2026

Visual Arts subject page

National secondary examinations timetable

Information relating to all achievement standards

Candidates are to produce a portfolio consisting of EITHER a two-panel portfolio (folio board) OR a moving image portfolio, representing the requirements of the standard.

Schools select student work from two standards for verification. The student work is marked by the teacher and work selected to be verified is photographed and digitally uploaded via the school's portal for NZQA to verify the results. Students will present to their teacher the two-panel portfolio or a moving image portfolio. Teachers will submit to NZQA a photograph of the two-panel portfolio or a moving image portfolio.

Schools have the opportunity to upload work for verification prior to 28 October.

Panels of verifiers either confirm or adjust the provisional grades for the sample portfolios. These become the final grades for the sample portfolios. Schools are required to use the results of verification to award final grades to their remaining candidates.

Physical portfolio specifications

- TWO-panel, hinged portfolio. See Submission requirements below.
- Three-dimensional work or large-scale work should be represented by good quality photographs and, where appropriate, be accompanied by sketches, headings, or diagrams.

Digital portfolio (moving image) specifications

- The body of work for a moving image portfolio should be equivalent to the body of work required for a two-panel portfolio.
- The portfolio should show evidence of actual time-based work and / or documentation of time-based art or design practice. A moving image portfolio is NOT merely a digital representation of a two-panel portfolio.
- The portfolio must be no more than 120 seconds in total length. The portfolio may comprise several individually edited video files or a combination of moving and still images.
- Music or sound included in a moving image 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.

Note: Digital submissions will not be returned to candidates.

Conditions of assessment

Candidates must not use appropriated imagery in their portfolio.

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

Physical evidence must be:

ONE portfolio:	• TWO-panel portfolio must be free-standing and consist of two 820 × 610 mm panels of cardboard, joined down the long edge (portrait in orientation). • panels must be hinged with adhesive tape or a glued binding cloth, and fold inwards to ensure the artwork is not damaged.
Moving image:	• moving image of no more than 120 seconds in total length • uses one of the permitted file types.
Labelled:	Label the portfolio board with school code, NSN.

Digital evidence must be:

A maximum of ONE file per standard	
Permitted file types:	Photograph: JPG, JPEG, PDF Video: AVI, M4V, MOV
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.

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

Candidates should refer to Further Guidance for Submission Responses for further information.

Refer also to other resources on the subject page of NZQA website.

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

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information:

Aromatawai special assessment conditions

Specific information for individual achievement standards

Standard:	91320
Title:	Produce a systematic body of work that shows understanding of art making conventions and ideas within design
Version:	2
Number of credits:	12

Standard:	91321
Title:	Produce a systematic body of work that shows understanding of art making conventions and ideas within painting
Version:	2
Number of credits:	12

Standard:	91322
Title:	Produce a systematic body of work that shows understanding of art making conventions and ideas within photography
Version:	2
Number of credits:	12

Standard:	91323
Title:	Produce a systematic body of work that shows understanding of art making conventions and ideas within printmaking
Version:	2
Number of credits:	12

Standard:	91324
Title:	Produce a systematic body of work that shows understanding of art making conventions and ideas within sculpture
Version:	2
Number of credits:	12