

NCEA CHANGES

For some years, the New Zealand Qualifications Authority had been working on major changes to NCEA Level 1, 2 and 3. These changes have evolved after consultation with teachers, employers, students, parents and communities.

From 2024, key changes at Level 1 included broadening access to a Science curriculum by consolidating Physics with Earth and Space Science and Chemistry with Biology, along with a new general nature of Science subject. Accounting, Art History, Classical Studies and Economics are no longer offered at Level 1. However, these subjects can be offered at Level 2 and Level 3.

Mandatory literacy and numeracy standards have been introduced to help ensure everyone who has an NCEA qualification has a good level of foundational literacy and numeracy. These are externally assessed digitally during the year. Students will need to achieve them preferably in Year 10 or Year 11 in order to be awarded any level of NCEA qualification.

Level 1 which has required 80 credits now requires 60 credits plus attainment of the literacy and numeracy standards for students to be awarded the qualification. In addition, standards have been reviewed and rebuilt so there are fewer, but larger standards and there is more of an external component for some subjects than students have been used to. This takes the form of examinations in November.

Level 1 NCEA 2026
60 credits plus Literacy and
Numeracy Standards