

A photograph of two young men in a classroom setting. One student, wearing a blue hoodie, is looking at a laptop screen and smiling. The other student is leaning over his shoulder, looking at the screen. The laptop is a dark-colored Apple MacBook. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students and classroom equipment.

NCEA ONLINE

supporting
digital transformation
in schools

WHAT'S HAPPENING

NZQA is changing how students can do their NCEA exams – from hand-written papers, to online, using a PC or laptop. This reflects the way students already interact with the world and how they are doing much of their learning, and it helps to prepare them for their next steps after school.

Most secondary school students are learning and living in a world where technology is always at their fingertips, so it makes sense all parts of their education, including assessment, uses digital technology. That's certainly what students are telling us they want.

Using digital technologies to learn and be assessed will help schools teach the fast-evolving skills needed for life

and work. For example over the next 20 years two thirds of children entering primary school today will work in job types that don't yet exist and nearly half of current jobs may disappear to automation.

We're introducing NCEA Online in stages – offering 14 subjects digitally in 2019 across levels 1, 2 and 3, with the range of subjects expanding in 2020 and beyond. From 2016, more than 22,000 students from 203 schools have participated in at least one Digital Trial or Pilot – with very positive feedback. Over the five years to 2018 around three quarters of New Zealand secondary schools and well over 30,000 students experienced some form of digital assessment.

WHERE WE'RE HEADING

Our 21st century approach to digital assessment will support innovation in teaching and learning and will change along with evolving technology.

New approaches will let students show in different ways what they know, the skills they have learned and how they can use that in real-life situations.

This could include oral responses or collaborations, simulation assessments or assessments supervised remotely.

The data generated by digital assessment will help with developments in how exams are designed and approaches to teaching and learning.



HOW WE'RE INVOLVING SCHOOLS

We're involving schools, students and exam centre managers in the design process, so the way we deliver digital exams matches the changing classroom experience and works well for the students.

NCEA Online will evolve, driven by the experience of students and teachers. We're working with other education agencies to make sure all schools and students can participate in digital assessments when they are ready.

As schools gain confidence with text-based exams and as technology evolves, we'll ensure NCEA Online can deliver a good user experience for subjects where special characters are required, such as mathematics, science and music.

Because schools are at different stages regarding their approach to digital teaching and learning,

digital assessment needs to be in sync with that. So we'll continue offering paper-based exams as schools transition towards digital education.

We're helping schools to prepare for digital assessment through:

- **Familiarisation** – showing students and teachers the features of digital exams
- **Previous NZQA digital assessments** – digital versions of the previous year's NCEA exams will be available for the subjects offered online
- **School readiness** – working with school staff to assess school and student readiness for digital assessment
- **Training** – providing exam centre managers and supervisors with the knowledge and skills to administer the assessments.

WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

Moving assessment online shows students, schools, whānau, communities and employers we are developing NCEA as a modern, innovative and world-class qualification supporting students to build the skills and knowledge they need.

Personalised learning pathways that include digital assessment have the

potential to engage more students in new ways more relevant to their individual needs and their culture.

We look forward to continuing to work with learners, whānau, teachers, educators, iwi and industry so all New Zealanders can qualify for the future world.