

## Key Terms

### **NZC (New Zealand Curriculum)**

This is the national framework that guides what students learn in schools. It includes subjects like English, Mathematics, Science, and the Arts, and focuses on key competencies such as critical thinking and problem-solving. The **NZC** sets the foundation for **NCEA** assessments.

### **NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority)**

**NZQA** is the government organization that oversees **NCEA** and other qualifications in New Zealand. It is responsible for setting standards, marking external exams, and ensuring that qualifications are fair and credible.

### **NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement)**

This is New Zealand's national high school qualification. **NCEA** has three levels (1, 2, and 3) and is based on earning a set number of **credits** through assessments in different subjects.

### **Co-requisite (Co-req)**

A **co-requisite** is a requirement that must be completed alongside another subject or standard. For example, in **NCEA**, students must meet **literacy and numeracy (LitNum)** requirements as co-requisites to achieve their qualification.

### **LitNum (Literacy and Numeracy)**

These are essential skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. Students must achieve **LitNum** requirements to gain an **NCEA** qualification. This is usually done through **Common Assessment Activities (CAAs)** or alternative approved standards.

### **CAAs (Common Assessment Activities)**

These are standardized tests that assess students' **literacy and numeracy** skills. They provide a fair and consistent way to measure whether students have met the foundational requirements needed for **NCEA**.

### **Tagged Standards**

Some **NCEA standards** are "tagged" for specific requirements, such as **Level 1 literacy**, **Level 1 numeracy**, or **University Entrance (UE) literacy**. If a standard is "tagged," achieving it will count toward fulfilling one of these key requirements.

### **External Assessments**

These are assessments set and marked by **NZQA (New Zealand Qualifications Authority)** and *usually* take the form of **end-of-year exams** or external portfolios (for subjects like Art and Technology). External assessments measure students' understanding of subjects on a national scale.

### **Internal Assessments**

These are assessments **completed and marked within the school** throughout the year. They can include projects, practical work, tests, or written assignments. Unlike external assessments, internal assessments allow students to be evaluated on their learning as they progress.

### **Credits**

**Credits** are points earned by completing **NCEA standards** (both internal and external). A certain number of credits must be achieved to gain an **NCEA qualification** at each level.

## Level

NCEA has three levels:

- **Level 1** (usually in Year 11)
- **Level 2** (usually in Year 12)
- **Level 3** (usually in Year 13)

Students must earn a required number of **credits** at each level to achieve **NCEA**.

## Achievement Standard

These are assessments that contribute to NCEA and are marked with different grades: **Not Achieved, Achieved, Merit, or Excellence**. They may be assessed internally (by the school) or externally (by national exams or portfolios).

## Unit Standard

These are another type of assessment, often used in vocational subjects. They are usually marked as **Achieved or Not Achieved** (without Merit or Excellence).

## Non-Achieved

A student does not meet the required standard for the assessment and does not earn any credits.

## Achieved

The student has met the basic requirements for the standard and earns credits.

## Merit

The student has demonstrated a higher level of understanding or skill than the basic requirements.

## Excellence

The student has performed at the highest level, showing an advanced understanding or skill.

## Subject Endorsement

A student earns a **Subject Endorsement** (e.g. L2 Physics with Excellence) if they gain 14 or more credits at Merit or Excellence in a single subject in one year. At least 3 of these credits must come from external assessments (except in subjects that are fully internally assessed). Also known as **Course Endorsement**.

## Endorsement

A student's NCEA certificate is gained with **Endorsement at Merit or Excellence** if they gain 50 or more credits at Merit or Excellence. These credits can come from the level of the certificate or higher (e.g. Level 2 credits will count towards both NCEA Level 2 and NCEA Level 1). The credits do not need to be gained in one academic year.

## NZQA Scholarship

A highly challenging award for top-performing students in specific subjects. It is assessed through external exams and does not contribute to NCEA but provides financial rewards and recognition.