

LEARNING ABOUT NCEA

New Zealand's national qualification
for secondary school students



WHAT IS NCEA?

The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) is New Zealand's national qualification for secondary school students.

It is made up of three certificates:



- NCEA Level 1
- NCEA Level 2
- NCEA Level 3

Students typically begin working towards NCEA Level 1 at age 15 (Year 11).

NCEA Levels 2 and 3 will follow in Years 12 and 13. Students can also start at Levels 2 or 3.

NCEA Level 1
Year 11

NCEA Level 2
Year 12

NCEA Level 3
Year 13



FEATURES OF NCEA



Flexible Learning

NCEA is a flexible qualification. Students can study one or more subjects at a higher level if they are very good at those subjects.



Personal Choice

Students can study a wide range of subjects beyond the traditional school curriculum.



Student Led

Schools design programmes to meet the needs of their students so that the learning is relevant to a pathway that leads to further study, training or employment.



Globally Accepted

NCEA is accepted and well regarded by higher education institutions around the world.



Quality Assured

NCEA is a national qualification that students can have confidence in because it is supported by the New Zealand Government.

HOW DOES IT WORK?



Students' work is assessed throughout the year. This consists of a range of tests, assignments and national exams. This mix enables students to demonstrate what they know and what they can do, as they progress. The assessments are quality assured by the New Zealand Government.

Students achieve credits by passing their assessments. To gain NCEA at each of the three levels, students must achieve 80 credits at each level.

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