

NCEA Review and Maintenance Programme – 2026 updates

Review and maintenance work has been undertaken for all three levels of NZC NCEA for 2026. This pdf document contains the updated Achievement Standards for **Psychology Level 2**. In January 2026 the NCEA website will be updated with these changes for Level 1, and the pdf version will be removed as it will no longer be necessary. NZQA will update their website with the registered standards in December. For external assessment specifications, refer to the NZQA website.

Subject: Psychology Level 2

Standard	What's changed?
AS 2.3 91846	Explanatory Note 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bullet point added about complying with code of ethics.

Achievement Standard**Subject Reference** Psychology 2.3**Title** Conduct psychological research with guidance**Level** 2 **Credits** 4 **Assessment** Internal**Subfield** Social Science Studies**Domain** Psychology**Status** Registered **Status date** September 2025**Planned review date** December 2028 **Date version published** December 2025

This achievement standard involves conducting psychological research with guidance.

Achievement Criteria

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct psychological research with guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct in-depth psychological research with guidance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct comprehensive psychological research with guidance.

Explanatory Notes

- This achievement standard is derived from *The New Zealand Curriculum*, Learning Media, Ministry of Education, 2007, Social Sciences learning area, and the Level 7 achievement objectives and is related to the material in the *Teaching and Learning Guide for Psychology*, Ministry of Education, 2010 at <http://seniorsecondary.tki.org.nz>.
- Conduct psychological research* involves:
 - developing a statement of the aim and purpose linked to a psychological concept or idea
 - using scientific research methods
 - complying with the *Code of Ethics for Psychologists Working in Aotearoa/New Zealand*
 - selecting and recording data
 - interpreting and reporting on the findings
 - reaching a valid conclusion derived from the findings which is relevant to the purpose of the investigation
 - providing a list of sources.

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Conduct in-depth psychological research involves:

- describing the reasons for the choice of the method used to conduct psychological research
- evaluating the validity of the method and/or reliability of the data
- discussing the psychological ideas relating to the research based on the findings
- providing a list of sources.

Conduct comprehensive psychological research involves:

- justifying the research method used
- evaluating the validity of the method and the reliability of the data
- discussing the psychological ideas from other source(s).

3 *With guidance* involves the teacher providing support. This may include:

- providing the context
- providing broad experimental conditions such as the availability of equipment or participants
- providing assistance to ensure the proposed research is ethical.

4 Conditions of Assessment related to this achievement standard can be found at <http://ncea.tki.org.nz/Resources-for-Internally-Assessed-Achievement-Standards>.

Replacement Information

This achievement standard replaced unit standard 27691.

Quality Assurance

- 1 Providers and Industry Training Organisations must be accredited by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against achievement standards.
- 2 Organisations with consent to assess and Industry Training Organisations assessing against achievement standards must engage with the moderation system that applies to those achievement standards.

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference

0233