

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 **Visual Arts Level 1**. 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. For Levels 2 and 3, NZQA will update their website with the registered standards in December. For external assessment specifications, refer to the NZQA website.

Subject: Visual Arts Level 1

Standard	What's changed?
AS 1.1 91912	Explanatory Note 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Merit and Excellence criteria amended.• Links and relationships removed.

Achievement Standard**Subject Reference** Visual Arts 1.1**Title** Use practice-based visual inquiry to explore an Aotearoa New Zealand Māori context and another cultural context**Level** 1 **Credits** 5 **Assessment** Internal**Subfield** Visual Arts**Domain** Art History**Status** Approved **Status date** September 2025**Planned review date** December 2028 **Date version published** December 2025**Purpose Statement**

Students are able to engage in practice-based visual inquiry to explore an Aotearoa New Zealand Māori context and another cultural context.

Achievement Criteria

Achievement	Achievement with Merit	Achievement with Excellence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use practice-based visual inquiry to explore an Aotearoa New Zealand Māori context and another cultural context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use practice-based visual inquiry to examine an Aotearoa New Zealand Māori context and another cultural context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use practice-based visual inquiry to reflect upon an Aotearoa New Zealand Māori context and another cultural context

Explanatory Notes

1 *Use practice-based visual inquiry to explore an Aotearoa New Zealand Māori context and another cultural context* involves:

- identifying visual and cultural elements of the contexts
- recording visual and cultural information about the contexts using visual arts processes, materials, and techniques.

Use practice-based visual inquiry to examine an Aotearoa New Zealand Māori context and another cultural context involves:

- investigating specific details of the visual and cultural elements of the contexts using visual arts processes, materials, and techniques.

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- D] *Use practice-based visual inquiry to reflect upon an Aotearoa New Zealand Māori context and another cultural context* involves:
- responding insightfully to visual and cultural elements of the contexts using visual arts processes, materials, and techniques with reference to specific details.
- 2 An *Aotearoa New Zealand Māori* context acknowledges Māori culture as foundational, a living treasure, indigenous, and unique to Aotearoa New Zealand.
- In a Visual Arts context, our unique Māori foundations can be drawn upon through understanding concepts, kupu, narratives, tikanga, symbols, and patterns inextricably linked to mana whenua and the rich legacy of Māori visual culture.
- 3 *Another cultural context* could include a student's own ahurea tuakiri, national, racial, or ethnic identity, and can include the diverse cultural practices therein. For example, in an ao Māori context, Toi Rerekē could be investigated in relation to Toi Tūturu.
- 4 A *practice-based visual inquiry* is practical and for the purpose of identifying and recording visual material and contextual information, not 'art making'. A practice-based visual inquiry uses visual arts processes, materials, and techniques such as drawing strategies to explore properties such as shape, texture, mass, and colour, and to record details, alternative views, diagrams, annotations, and selected media.
- 5 Refer to the NCEA [glossary](#) for Māori, Pacific, and further subject-specific terms and concepts.
- 6 This achievement standard is derived from the Arts Learning Area at Level 6 of *The New Zealand Curriculum: Learning Media*, Ministry of Education, 2007.

Replacement Information

This achievement standard and AS91913-AS91915 replaced AS90913-AS90917.

Quality Assurance

- 1 Schools and institutions must have been granted consent to assess by NZQA before they can register credits from assessment against achievement standards.
- 2 Schools and institutions with consent to assess must engage with the moderation system that applies to those achievement standards.

Consent and Moderation Requirements (CMR) reference 0233