

# NCEA Qualification Structure

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In the senior school students are working towards their National Certificates in Educational Achievement (NCEA) at Levels 1, 2 or 3. The Government has made it very clear that in order for students to be competitive and be able to meet the challenges that life will throw at them in terms of employment they need to gain at least Level 2 NCEA.

In order to achieve a particular Level students need:

**NCEA Level 1**

- a total of 80 credits at Level 1 or above
- at least 10 of these credits must be in literacy
- at least 10 of these credits must be in numeracy

**NCEA Level 2**

- a total of 80 credits
- at least 60 of these credits must be at Level 2 or above
- the remaining 20 credits can be from any Level, including Level 1

**NCEA Level 3**

- a total of 80 credits
- at least 60 of these credits must be at Level 3 or above
- the remaining 20 credits can be from Level 2 or above

## Endorsements

The New Zealand Qualification Authority (NZQA) has recently introduced subject and certificate endorsements as a means of distinguishing student achievement as well as providing an incentive for students to strive for higher grades.

**Certificate endorsement** - a student can gain a National Certificate of Educational Achievement endorsed with:

*MERIT* = at least 50 credits are gained at Merit or above

*EXCELLENCE* = at least 50 credits are gained at Excellence

**Subject endorsement** – a student may gain a subject endorsement at two performance levels:

*MERIT* = at least 14 credits are gained in that subject at Merit or above (3 of which must be from both internal and externally assessed standards\*)

*EXCELLENCE* = at least 14 credits are gained at Excellence (3 of which must be from both internal and externally assessed standards\*)

\* this rule does not apply where a subject is completely internally assessed.