

Assessment Specifications

Scholarship Earth and Space Science 2026

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General information

Performance Standard:	93104
Assessment method:	Examination, end of year
Assessment medium:	Online or printed paper

[Earth and Space Science subject page](#)

[National secondary examinations timetable](#)

Format of the assessment

There will be three open-ended questions. Some questions may have long passages to read and consider. Resource material, such as written text, images, and data, will be provided for each question. In their answers, candidates will be expected to integrate this resource material into their own thinking. Candidates will be required to answer ALL questions.

Further information about digital external assessment can be found on the NZQA website.

[Digital external assessment](#)

Content / context details

Questions will be asked within a variety of contexts, some of which may be unfamiliar.

Candidates should be familiar with overarching cycles, such as the water cycle, the carbon cycle, and the rock cycle, as integrating aspects of the curriculum.

Candidates should have a broad knowledge of tectonic plate theory, the geology of Zealandia, and astronomy, such as the life cycles of stars and the formation and key features of objects in our solar system.

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information:

[Aromatawai special assessment conditions](#)