

Assessment Specifications

Scholarship History 2026

Published in March 2026

General information

Performance Standard:	93403
Assessment method:	Examination, end of year
Assessment medium:	Online or printed paper

[History subject page](#)

[National secondary examinations timetable](#)

Format of the assessment

Candidates will be required to answer three questions in an exam booklet, using an extended response format.

Candidates will be expected to respond to each question by constructing a substantiated argument that synthesises the source material, as well as their own understanding and knowledge, to evaluate the theme.

Candidates must demonstrate their ability to:

- use highly developed knowledge to analyse and think critically about key ideas relevant to the historical context and theme
- synthesise a highly developed understanding of the theme, with ideas drawn from both the resource booklet provided and their own knowledge of complex historical contexts
- evaluate historical relationships such as cause and effect, continuity and change, past and present, specific and general, patterns and trends, and differing perspectives
- judge the reliability and usefulness of historical evidence and evaluate the strengths and limitations of historians' narratives connected to the theme
- evaluate a specific event / period / idea connected to the theme within an Aotearoa New Zealand context.

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

[Digital external assessment](#)

Resources or information supplied

Candidates will be provided with a resource booklet containing a variety of historical sources, primary and secondary.

Special notes

The theme will be **relationships between workers, employers, and the state**, and this will shape the questions and sources.

Question One will focus on historical narratives.

Question Two will focus on historical relationships.

Question Three will focus on Aotearoa New Zealand from the beginning of the 1870s to the end of the 1940s.

Special assessment conditions

Refer to the NZQA website for further information:

[Aromatawai special assessment conditions](#)