

NCEA - a quick guide

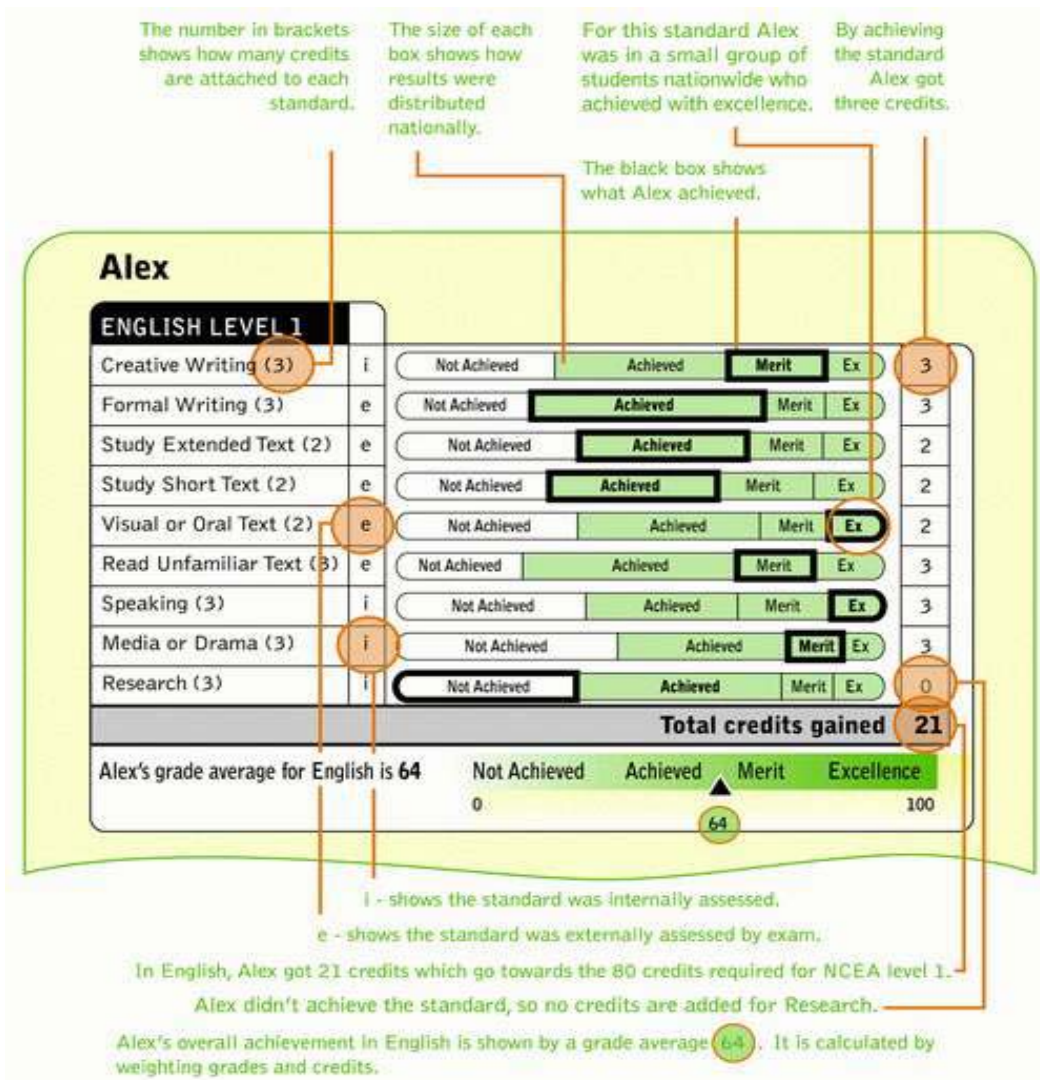
NCEA – an introduction

The national qualification for secondary school students is changing. Instead of School Certificate, 6th Form Certificate and Bursaries, students will study for National Certificate of Educational Achievement at 3 levels.

NCEA level 1 started for Year 11 students (5th Form) in 2002.

Like other qualifications on the National Qualifications Framework, NCEA will be administered by the New Zealand Qualifications Authority.

NCEA – more than a number



A fuller picture from every angle

NCEA gives everyone a full picture of what students know and can do. Schools can offer a wider range of courses.

Goals to aim for

NCEA results show whether students have done well enough to reach a standard. When they reach the standard, they get the credits.

Exams are still important

More than half the assessment for regular school subjects can be by exam, much as it is now. Internal assessment will be used for things that can't be tested in exams – eg speeches, research projects, performances.

Internal assessments will be checked nationally

Internally assessed work will be checked by NZQA's panels of experts to ensure the national standard is maintained.

Challenges for every student

There will be realistic challenges and opportunities for all students no matter what their ability. Less able students can get credits for the aspects of each subject they're good at. But it will be tough to achieve excellence.

Greater course variety

New subjects like tourism will be able to count for NCEA. Schools can offer a wide array of courses.

National and international recognition

Employers, polytechnics and universities will use NCEA results. NCEA will be internationally recognised as New Zealand's official qualification.

What's new, and what stays the same

There will still be exams for subjects like English, Maths – just like School Certificate in the past. There will also be internal assessments, as School Certificate has had for several years.

Everyone who reaches the standard receives the credits

There will be no scaling. High performers will get grades of merit or excellence, but grades won't change the number of credits they receive.

Schools will have more flexibility with courses

For instance, students can do some sixth form work alongside fifth form subjects.

Students need 80 credits to get NCEA

At level 1, 16 of the 80 credits need to prove students have a good level of skills in reading, writing and dealing with numbers.

There is no set number of credits for any course

Students get credits for each aspect of a course if they reach the standard. So, even if they're not particularly good with a subject overall, they can still earn credits for those areas where they shine.

Everyone gets a Record of Learning

This shows all the credits they've earned. NZQA updates this record with any credits they earn for level 1 or above in future years.

Want to find out more?

For more information, contact the New Zealand Qualifications Authority on **0800 NCEAHELP (0800 623 243)**

You can also visit www.ncea.govt.nz

For information about changes your school is making for NCEA, talk to your school.