



Gisborne Girls' High School

Student Assessment Handbook

2017

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STUDENT ASSESSMENT HANDBOOK

The information contained in this handbook covers the assessment practices that will operate at GGHS. The aim is to explain the various procedures that will apply across all school subjects.

DOCUMENTATION FOR STUDENTS

At the start of every course, you will be given a detailed Student Information Sheet that will contain details about:-

- The assessment tasks that will be used.
- The timing of each assessment and the credit value of each.
- Procedures on the methods used to ensure interclass comparability (moderation).

You will be given a method of recording your assessment marks.

You will be given at least one week's notice for an assessment task.

You will be provided with documentation that informs you of the performance criteria that are required to reach the necessary standard for an assessment.

ABSENCES

If you have a **legitimate absence** from an assessment task (eg. if you are away on an official inter-school exchange, school-based trip, official work experience or are ill) your teacher may choose to:

- (a) give you the assessment at an agreed later date or
- (b) give you an equivalent assessment task at a later date.

If you have an **absence that is not considered to be legitimate** (e.g. leave for overseas trips, truancy etc.), whilst some of these absences may be with the co-operation of the school, it still remains as an alternative to school and you cannot expect to have an alternative assessment.

Unexplained/unacceptable absences on the day of an assessment will result in a Not Achieved grade.

LATE OR MISSED ASSIGNMENTS

If you are unable to meet a time deadline and need to complete a late assignment or assessment task:

- (a) If there is a genuine problem you must seek an extension **before the due date** and negotiate a new date. You will need to request an extension in writing. Use the form shown in Appendix A. Forms are available at the Student Counter.
- (b) Lateness for unacceptable reasons will result in a Not Achieved grade being awarded. Absence on the day due to minor illness (i.e. no note of explanation provided) for example, does not constitute an acceptable reason. If you are absent on the day for whatever reason you must arrange to have your work delivered to the school office or the appropriate teacher.
- (c) Where assignments fall due on the day of a school-based trip and you are aware in advance of the trip, assignments must be handed in before that day or a new date negotiated otherwise the assessment will be regarded as late.

APPEALS

Students have the right to appeal any assessment decision. The reasons could include, but are not limited to, your awarded grade, an allegation that you have a breach of the rules or a decision affecting your access to assessment (e.g. whether you were given an extension or not.)

In the first instance you should try to resolve the issue directly with the teacher concerned. If this does not produce a satisfactory outcome you should lodge a formal appeal within **five days** of being advised of the initial assessment decision. If you wish to appeal an assessment issue you must submit a completed Assessment Appeal Application Form (Appendix B) to the Principal's Nominee, Mrs Hannah who will investigate the issue. The decision of the Principal's Nominee is final and they will communicate the outcome of the decision to the student in writing. Forms are available at the Student Counter.

You must sign to verify that the grade for an assessment has been checked and correctly recorded. Where a grade is disputed, the matter must be resolved before your signature is recorded. You do not forfeit your right to appeal by acknowledging the return of your work or by sighting your grade. By the end of the year, you must have verified with your class teacher that the year's marks have been correctly recorded.

DERIVED GRADES

Derived Grades is a process for establishing grades when a student has been prevented from sitting examinations or otherwise presenting materials for external assessment, or who considers that their performance in an external assessment has been seriously impaired because of exceptional circumstances beyond their control. A derived grade is only possible where the school has grades recorded from valid end-of-topic tests or practice examinations. It is therefore very important that students attempt, and do their best performance possible, at such assessments.

For any application arising from the external examinations, you must see Mrs Hannah as soon as possible after your examination to complete an application form. The closing date for applications is early December.

SPECIAL ASSESSMENT CONDITIONS

Mrs Hannah will liaise with the Student Support Department to identify students who may require special assessment conditions. If you think you may be eligible for special assessment conditions, such as reader/writer, please see either Mrs Hannah or Mrs Andrew. If you are eligible, these conditions will be supplied for any internal assessments conducted throughout the year.

FURTHER ASSESSMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There will be provision for a further assessment opportunity, where this is manageable, for those students who have not reached the specified standard or parts of a standard or who may wish to improve the level of their performance. Eligibility for a further assessment opportunity should be established at the time of or immediately after the assessment has been completed.

When practicable, you will be given ONE further opportunity to demonstrate achievement using either an alternative assessment or a variety of means of gathering evidence as deemed appropriate by the subject teacher to allow them to make a professional judgement on your achievement. The assessment is to be administered in school time.

In most cases, there will be one further assessment opportunity provided. You will be advised at the start of the year if there are any assessments that will not be open to further assessment.

If a further assessment opportunity is made available to any student, it must be available to all students entered for that standard. This is regardless of your performance on the first opportunity.

Therefore you can have a further assessment opportunity to achieve the standard or to improve your grade in an Achievement Standard.

However, if you did not complete the original assessment due to an unacceptable reason, then you will not be eligible for a further assessment opportunity (for example if you truanted from school on the day of the assessment).

A further assessment opportunity occurs when a new, quality-assured assessment is provided for students after their first opportunity, and **after additional teaching and learning has taken place**. This could be a new test, a new writing topic, or a new research topic. For some tasks offering a further assessment opportunity will not be possible for manageability and practical purposes.

If you have a further assessment opportunity then you will be awarded the highest grade achieved from both opportunities.

RESUBMISSIONS

In some cases a resubmission of your assessment may be allowed. This would involve minor errors that you are capable of finding and correcting yourself. For example, you may have handed in an assessment but may not have done a particular calculation correctly. In such a case the teacher may return your assessment and give you an opportunity to resubmit that part. The teacher cannot give you full information about your mistake but could say that “there is a problem with your calculations”.

A resubmission should be limited to specific aspects of the assessment and **no more than one resubmission** should be provided. If a resubmission is offered, it must take place before the teacher gives any feedback to the class on the work done. If more teaching has occurred after the first assessment opportunity, resubmission is not possible. A resubmission must not compromise the assessment and must be carried out under the same conditions in a timely fashion.

AUTHENTICATION OF STUDENTS’ WORK

Any piece of work submitted by you for marking must be an original piece of your work. Each subject will outline the procedures they will use to ensure the authenticity of your work. You must follow the guidelines that you will be given for your bibliography if one is required. This is generally required for written assignments and investigations. An example of an authenticity declaration is shown in Appendix C.

BREACHES OF THE RULES

When a student is suspected of breaching the authentication rules (eg cheating, copying or handing in work that belongs to another person) the teacher, HOF and Principal’s Nominee will be involved in an investigation. If a student is found to have breached the rules, they will be awarded a Not Achieved grade and will not be eligible for a further assessment opportunity. The Principal will make the final decision in these situations. If a student is suspected of cheating in an assessment, including school examinations, an investigation will be held. If the student is found guilty they will receive a Not Achieved grade and will not be eligible for a further assessment opportunity. The Principal will make the final decision in these situations. Further school disciplinary action may follow. The appeals policy will apply in these cases.

RECORDING AND ARCHIVING ACHIEVEMENT INFORMATION

Your assessment marks will be recorded by your class teacher onto the relevant KAMAR computer markbook. You will be provided with a printout from the school’s computer system

several times during the year so that you can check both internal results and your external entry details. You will also be able to access your details on the NZQA website (www.nzqa.govt.nz) during the year. You should get in the habit of visiting this website to check on the accuracy of the information.

REPORTING OF NOT ACHIEVED GRADES

When a student has presented work or evidence for assessment **or** been given adequate opportunity to achieve a standard, the result of that assessment must be reported to NZQA. The result can not be withdrawn. This means that if you have been entered for an internal standard and you have had the opportunity to achieve it, then if you do not achieve the credits your result will be recorded as a Not Achieved. This result will be recorded on your Results Notice but not on your Record of Achievement. This will also happen if you decide not to attempt a standard which your class has been provided with class time to complete. You cannot be withdrawn from a standard simply because you don't want to do it.

PRIVACY ISSUES

You have a right to privacy with respect to your grades and your assessment materials. Your grades will be recorded on the KAMAR computer database. These results are only available to teachers and administration staff at Gisborne Girls' High School. There will be no general publication of students' results that will identify you personally unless you have agreed to this. If a teacher wants to use any of your assessment material as exemplar material then your permission will be sought and your identity will be removed.

NCEA INFORMATION

Quick Reference Guide

The National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) is the national qualification of New Zealand. **All** senior courses at GGHS are aligned with the NCEA and offer credits.

Level One NCEA:

To achieve a Level 1 NCEA Certificate a student must gain at least 80 credits. In most year 11 subjects students are working towards 16 - 22 credits. So, in your full range of subjects, you have the opportunity to gain many more than the required 80 credits. To gain a Level 1 certificate, you must also have at least 10 literacy credits and at least 10 numeracy credits. These credits can be gained in many different subjects. Your English and Mathematics teachers will explain these to you and help you monitor your progress.

Level Two NCEA:

To achieve a Level 2 certificate you must gain at least 80 credits. At least 60 of these must be Level 2 credits with the balance being Level 1 credits. You must also have met the Literacy and Numeracy requirements for Level 1 NCEA (i.e. 10 credits for each).

Level Three NCEA:

To achieve a Level 3 certificate you must gain at least 80 credits. At least 60 of these must be Level 3 credits with the balance being Level 2 credits. You must also have met the Literacy and Numeracy requirements for Level 1 NCEA (i.e. 10 credits for each).

University Entrance:

To gain University Entrance in you need to have completed NCEA Level 3 and achieved at least 14 Level 3 credits in each of three **approved subjects**. In addition, you need to have 10 credits at Level 1 or higher in Numeracy and at least 10 credits at level 2 or higher in Literacy (specifically showing reading and writing skills). See the additional information about the Level 3 courses at GGHS and University Entrance.

Scholarship:

Scholarship is an external examination for top secondary students. Candidates usually enter in Year 13, which is their last year of schooling. Scholarship examines course material related to Level 3 standards derived from up to Level 8 of the New Zealand Curriculum that students study in Year 13. However, the skills and understanding required to meet Scholarship criteria are considerably more advanced. Scholarship requires students to demonstrate high-level critical thinking. Students must apply to enter for scholarship by September 1st. Students who enter for scholarship undertake to actually sit the final examination and there is a charge of \$30 per subject.

How do you gain credits?

To get credits you will have to pass Achievement Standards or Unit Standards in your subjects. Some standards are worth more credits than others. Most standards are worth from 2 to 6 credits.

Achievement Standards and Unit Standards:

In each of your subjects you will work towards Achievement standards and/or Unit standards that test your knowledge and skills in different aspects of that subject. The credits earned by both types of standard contribute equally to the NCEA certificate.

In Achievement Standards there are four grades awarded. These are *Not Achieved*, *Achieved*, *Achieved with Merit* and *Achieved with Excellence*. You get the same number of credits for each type of Achieved grade, but the type of grade is recorded on the results sheet. In Unit Standards there is only *Achieved* or *Not Achieved*.

Each department at GGHS has determined the most appropriate courses for the students and will have selected suitable Achievement and/or Unit Standards as the means of assessment for the students. Both Achievement Standards and Unit Standards are types of “Standards Based Assessment”. That means you do not get a mark – you either meet the standard or you do not meet the standard. There is no regulated “pass rate” in a subject. All students who achieve the standard will get the credits. There is no scaling of grades.

Internal and External Assessment:

In each subject you may have some externally assessed Achievement Standards and some internally assessed Achievement Standards. For most subjects, externally assessed means an exam in November or the submission of work to an external marker. Internal assessment is conducted by the classroom teacher. All Unit Standards are internally assessed.

Fees:

The fees for 2017 are as follows:

Level One, Two and Three NCEA: \$76.70

Financial assistance is available to those students whose parents are on a benefit or eligible for a Community Services Card. You must apply for this early and forms are available at school from second term. If you are eligible for financial assistance the fees are reduced to \$20 (or \$30 for a family). All students are encouraged to check their eligibility for this. Fees must be paid to the school by the end of term 2.

Recognising high achievement

Certificates can be 'endorsed' to reflect high achievement in a significant number of standards while course endorsement shows that students have performed well in an individual course.

Certificate endorsement

If a student gains 50 credits at Excellence, their NCEA will be endorsed with Excellence. Likewise, if a student gains 50 credits at Merit (or Merit and Excellence), their NCEA will be endorsed with Merit. Credits earned can count towards an endorsement over more than one year and more than one level. However, they must be gained at the level of the certificate or above. For example, Level 2 credits will count towards endorsement of a Level 1 NCEA, but Level 1 credits will not count towards endorsement of a Level 2 NCEA.

Course endorsement

Course endorsement provides recognition for a student who has performed exceptionally well in an individual course. Students will gain an endorsement for a course if, **in a single school year**, they achieve:

- 14 or more credits at Merit or Excellence, and
- at least 3 of these credits are from externally assessed standards and 3 credits from internally assessed standards. Note, this does not apply to Physical Education, Religious Studies and Level 3 Visual Arts.

A course endorsement is not a qualification. A course endorsement can be gained independently of a qualification. For example, a student may achieve a Merit endorsement for their Level 2 Mathematics course regardless of whether they achieve NCEA Level 2.

Other National Certificates:

Students at GGHS can also work towards other National Certificates whilst completing their NCEA certificates. The National Certificates available are:

- National Certificate of Computing Level 2 and Level 3
- National Certificate of Early Childhood Education Level 3
- National Certificate of Tourism Level 2

Students in these subjects will be given the details for each of these certificates.

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE QUALIFICATION

To qualify for university entrance the following is required:

NCEA Level 3		
80 credits at Level 3 with at least 60 credits at Level 3 and the remaining 20 credits at Level 2.		
PLUS:		
14 credits at level 3 or higher in an "approved subject" _____	14 credits at level 3 or higher in an "approved subject" _____	14 credits at level 3 or higher in an "approved subject" _____
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10 credits in Mathematics at Level 1 or higher• 5 credits at Level 2 or higher in Reading• 5 credits at Level 2 or higher in Writing	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Tick these boxes if you have these requirements.

To qualify for UE, achievement in the approved subjects must be from Achievement Standards. The remaining credits for your Level 3 can be achieved from Unit Standards. The Numeracy credits must be from Achievement Standards or the package of three numeracy unit standards. Many subjects can contribute to Literacy and Numeracy and this will show on your printouts.

Approved Subjects that are offered at GGHS:

Accounting	Mathematics - Calculus
Biology	- Statistics
Chemistry	Music
Classical Studies	Practical Art - Design
Computing	- Painting
Drama	- Photography
Economics	- Sculpture
English / Achievement English	Physical Education
Food and Nutrition	Physics
Geography	Spanish
Graphics	Te Reo Maori
Health Studies	Te Reo Rangatira
History	Textiles Technology

Year 13 Subjects assessing at Level 3:

Computer Applications	Psychology
Early Childhood Education	Senior Outdoor Education
Fitness Industry	Tourism
Gateway	

If you have any questions about your course please see Mrs Hannah. Do not leave it too late.

APPENDIX A: EXTENSION FORM

Assessment Extension Application Form

Students who need an extension for an assignment **MUST USE THIS FORM**. Fill in the top section, attach an appropriate letter or other relevant information and hand in to your teacher. **You must apply for an extension BEFORE the due date.**

Name:		Form class :			
Date of Application:		Name of Teacher:			
Subject:		Standard number and title:			
Type of assessment (<i>practical, assignment, test, etc</i>):					
Date of assessment or due date:					
Explain why you are requesting an extension to the due date:					
Evidence of your preparation:					
Notes complete:	√/X	Attendance at least 80%:	√/X	Effort and application in class:	√/X
Comments:					
Decision of teacher:					
Outcome communicated to student by _____ date _____					
Entered into Kamar pastoral record. _____					
Signed _____			Date: _____		

Assessment Appeal Application Form

Fill in the top section, attach an appropriate letter or other relevant information and hand in to the office or your teacher

Name:	Form class :
Date of Application:	
Subject:	Name of Teacher:
Standard number and title:	
Type of assessment (<i>practical, assignment, test, etc</i>):	
Date of assessment or due date:	
Circle to indicate the assessment decision that you are appealing:	
1. The Grade 2. Missed/late assessment 3. Further assessment opportunity 4. A Breach of the rules (eg. misconduct, cheating, plagiarism) 5. Other _____	
Explain why you think the incorrect assessment decision has been made:	
What do you think is the correct assessment decision? (please state or attach any evidence that you have to support this)	
Notes of person investigating:	
Decision of person investigating:	
Outcome communicated to student by _____ date _____	
Outcome communicated to other parties (please name) _____	
by _____ date _____	
Outcome recorded on Kamar pastoral record _____	
Signed _____ Date: _____	

APPENDIX C: AUTHENTICITY DECLARATION

Authenticity Declaration Form (Example documentation)

- All work submitted by students for internal assessment must be entirely their own.

This form is to be completed by students for individual curriculum areas and be held by the HOD.

Name: _____ Class: _____

Subject: _____ Teacher: _____

This is to state that I had no assistance of any kind in completing:

Achievement standard/unit standard: _____

1. Any information and materials that are the work of others are acknowledged in my bibliography/resource list.
2. All other materials submitted are my own work.

The work submitted for assessment is entirely my own.

Signed: _____ (Student)

Date: _____

This form must be stored by the classroom teacher with the assessment material and be available if required.