

New Zealand Scholarship Assessment Specifications

General Information

Scholarship Performance Standard	Languages
Mode of Assessment	Written examination
For Year	2009

Specific Information

Resources or information supplied:

There will be a question booklet containing resource material, questions, and spaces in which candidates can make notes on the listening and reading material. The listening material is supplied on a CD. There will be a separate answer booklet.

Special Notes:

Candidates will be required to deliver the speaking evidence in a separate room.

Content/Context details:

The examination will be marked out of 32 marks.

Section One, Writing, has two questions, each worth 8 marks.

Section Two, Speaking, has two questions, each worth 8 marks.

All instructions will be in English, but all questions will be asked in the target language.

SECTION ONE: Writing

The Listening resources will:

- contain at least one and no more than three passages, linked around a common theme, which will take 30 minutes in total.
- contain approximately 400-450 words total for French, German and Spanish, 1200 Japanese kana and 450-500 Chinese characters,
- be repeated four times. The first and last time candidates will hear it read as a whole. The second and third times, they will hear it read in sections, with a pause after each section.

The Writing will require:

- a response of approximately 100-150 words for each question for French, German and Spanish, or 100-150 characters with 20% pinyin for Chinese, or 300-400 kana for Japanese
- the first response will provide evidence of specific understanding of the text, and provide the opportunity for the candidate to offer their own point of view
- the second response will be more challenging as it will require candidates to go beyond the text, and to give their own views and ideas using their own language on a topic related to that of the text
- the candidate to write for approximately one hour.

SECTION TWO: Speaking

The Reading resources will contain:

- at least one and no more than three passages, linked around a common theme
- approximately 30 minutes of reading material
- no more than 500 words for French, German and Spanish, or 1200 kana with kanji as appropriate or 400 characters for Chinese.

The Speaking will require:

- the candidate to spend 30 minutes reading the text and making notes under the headings provided
- candidates to spend 30 minutes preparing answers to the 2 questions
- the first response will provide evidence of specific understanding of the text, and provide the opportunity for the candidate to offer their own point of view
- the second response will be more challenging as it will require candidates to go beyond the text, and to give their own views and ideas using their own language on a topic related to that of the text
- candidates will have their spoken responses recorded on audio tape in a separate room
- it is suggested that candidates speak for 3-4 minutes
- once the candidate has begun speaking the tape will run uninterrupted for 6 minutes.

NB: The candidate is NOT permitted to operate the tape recorder.