

The following definitions of each qualification type apply to all qualifications listed on the NZQF.

Certificate level 2

Purpose

A certificate at level 2 qualifies individuals with introductory knowledge and skills for a field(s)/areas of work or study.

Outcomes

A graduate of a level 2 certificate is able to:

- demonstrate basic factual and/or operational knowledge of a field of work or study
- apply known solutions to familiar problems
- apply standard processes relevant to the field of work or study
- apply literacy and numeracy skills relevant to the role in the field of work or study
- work under general supervision
- demonstrate some responsibility for own learning and performance
- collaborate with others.

Certificate level 3

Purpose

A certificate at level 3 qualifies individuals with knowledge and skills for a specific role(s) within fields/areas of work and/or preparation for further study.

Outcomes

A graduate of a level 3 certificate is able to:

- demonstrate some operational and theoretical knowledge in a field of work or study
- select from and apply a range of known solutions to familiar problems
- apply a range of standard processes relevant to the field of work or study
- apply a range of communication skills relevant to the role in the field of work or study
- apply literacy and numeracy skills relevant to the role in the field of work or study
- work under limited supervision
- demonstrate major responsibility for own learning and performance
- adapt own behaviour when interacting with others
- contribute to group performance.

Certificate level 4

Purpose

A certificate at level 4 qualifies individuals to work or study in broad or specialised field(s)/ areas.

Outcomes

A graduate of a level 4 certificate is able to:

- demonstrate broad operational and theoretical knowledge in a field of work or study
- select and apply solutions to familiar and sometimes unfamiliar problems
- select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study
- apply a range of communication skills relevant to the field of work or study
- demonstrate the self-management of learning and performance under broad guidance
- demonstrate some responsibility for performance of others.

Certificate level 5

Purpose

A certificate at level 5 qualifies individuals with theoretical and/or technical knowledge and skills within an aspect(s) of a specific field of work or study.

Outcomes

A graduate of a level 5 certificate is able to:

- demonstrate broad operational or technical and theoretical knowledge within an aspect(s) of a specific field of work or study
- select and apply a range of solutions to familiar and sometimes unfamiliar problems
- select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study
- demonstrate complete self-management of learning and performance within defined contexts
- demonstrate some responsibility for the management of learning and performance of others.

Diploma level 5

Purpose

A diploma at level 5 qualifies individuals with theoretical and/or technical knowledge and skills within a specific field of work or study.

Outcomes

A graduate of a level 5 diploma is able to:

- demonstrate broad operational or technical and theoretical knowledge within a specific field of work or study
- select and apply a range of solutions to familiar and sometimes unfamiliar problems
- select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study
- demonstrate complete self-management of learning and performance within defined contexts
- demonstrate some responsibility for the management of learning and performance of others.

Certificate level 6

Purpose

A certificate at level 6 qualifies individuals with theoretical and/or technical knowledge and skills within an aspect(s) of a specialised/strategic context.

Outcomes

A graduate of a level 6 certificate is able to:

- demonstrate specialised technical or theoretical knowledge with depth within an aspect(s) of a field of work or study
- analyse and generate solutions to familiar and unfamiliar problems
- select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study
- demonstrate complete self-management of learning and performance within dynamic contexts
- demonstrate responsibility for leadership within dynamic contexts.

Diploma level 6

Purpose

A diploma at level 6 qualifies individuals with theoretical and/or technical knowledge and skills in specialised/strategic contexts.

Outcomes

A graduate of a level 6 diploma is able to:

- demonstrate specialised technical or theoretical knowledge with depth in a field of work or study
- analyse and generate solutions to familiar and unfamiliar problems
- select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study
- demonstrate complete self-management of learning and performance within dynamic contexts
- demonstrate responsibility for leadership within dynamic contexts.

Diploma level 7

Purpose

A diploma at level 7 qualifies individuals with specialised and technical knowledge and skills within a professional context.

Outcomes

A graduate of a level 7 diploma is able to:

- demonstrate specialised technical or theoretical knowledge with depth in one or more fields of work or study
- analyse and generate solutions to unfamiliar and sometimes complex problems
- select, adapt and apply a range of processes relevant to the field of work or study
- demonstrate advanced generic skills and/or specialist knowledge and skills in a professional context or field of study.

NZQA Level Descriptors

Dimension	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6	Level 7
Knowledge	Basic factual and/ or operational knowledge of a field of work or study	Some operational and theoretical knowledge in a field of work or study	Broad operational and theoretical knowledge in a field of work or study	Broad operational or technical and theoretical knowledge within a specific field of work or study	Specialised technical or theoretical knowledge with depth in a field of work or study	Specialised technical or theoretical knowledge with depth in one or more fields of work or study
Skills	Apply known solutions to familiar problems Apply standard processes relevant to the field of work or study	Select and apply from a range of known solutions to familiar problems Apply a range of standard processes relevant to the field of work or study	Select and apply solutions to familiar and sometimes unfamiliar problems Select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study	Select and apply a range of solutions to familiar and sometimes unfamiliar problems Select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study	Analyse and generate solutions to familiar and unfamiliar problems Select and apply a range of standard and non-standard processes relevant to the field of work or study	Analyse, generate solutions to unfamiliar and sometimes complex problems Select, adapt and apply a range of processes relevant to the field of work or study
Application [of knowledge and skills]	General supervision Requiring some responsibility for own learning and performance Collaborating with others	Limited supervision Requiring major responsibility for own learning and performance Adapting own behaviour when interacting with others Contributing to group performance	Self-management of learning and performance under broad guidance Some responsibility for performance of others	Complete self-management of learning and performance within defined contexts Some responsibility for the management of learning and performance of others	Complete self-management of learning and performance within dynamic contexts Responsibility for leadership within dynamic contexts	Advanced generic skills and/or specialist knowledge and skills in a professional context or field of study