

# 7 Things

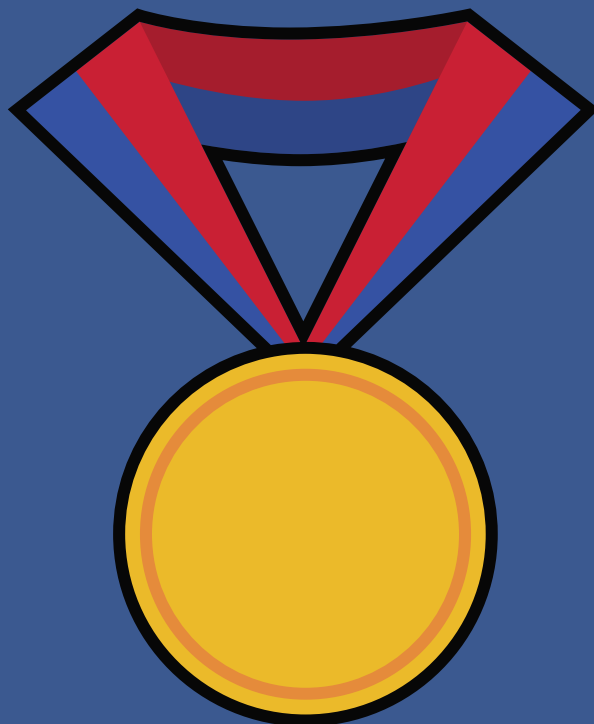
**Every Parent Should Know**

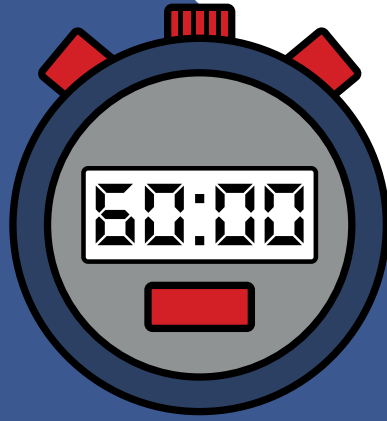
ABOUT NCEA



# Congratulations

Well done for taking the initiative to learn about NCEA. The more you know about the system the better you can set your child up for successful study. NCEA is quite complicated and very few parents really understand how it works. More often than not students themselves don't fully understand it too! Getting a handle on how it all works will help you better guide your child through goal setting and study.





# KEY DATES

First things first- when are the NCEA exams?

**9<sup>th</sup>**

Examinations start on the 9th of November

They are spread out over about 3 weeks but not all exams will have an even gap between them. Some might even be on the same day. Ideally students should focus exclusively on their nearest exam during the 3 days immediately before it. Before those 3 days study should be split evenly between all subjects. A very common mistake is students spending most of their time before the 9th November studying for their first exam and overlooking that their second one is only 2 days afterwards.

Note exam dates and put them up on the fridge, this will keep you in the loop with your child's study

All exam dates can be found at:

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/qualifications-and-standards/qualifications/ncea/exam-timetable-2016.pdf>

# *Bench mark Exams...*

The NCEA Bench mark exams are held in term 3. While schools make a huge effort to emphasise Bench mark exams students very rarely attribute enough importance to them.

They are important for 3 reasons:

1. If the student is unable to sit the end of year exams due to injury or illness these Bench mark exams are used for their awarded grades. Another example is that after the disruption of the Christchurch earthquake many students chose to use their Bench mark exams results.
2. Many scholarships and in-school awards are based on Bench mark exam results as the results from the real exams aren't available until after the school year finishes.
3. They are a valuable lesson in managing study time before and during exam periods, sitting exams under time pressure and checking in to see how much more a student needs to improve to get the scores they are aiming for in each subject.

# NCEA REQUIREMENTS

It is a great starting point to know how many credits your child needs to gain to pass NCEA. They can gain these credits through internal examinations throughout the year, and through external exams at the end. Each subject generally offers 24 available credits

## Level 1

80 level 1 credits to pass NCEA level 1.

10 of these credits must be from a literacy standard (usually english exams and internal examinations)

10 of these credits must be from a numeracy standard (usually maths exams and internal examinations).

## Level 2

60 level 2 credits + 20 Level 1 or 2 credits to pass NCEA level 2. Level 1 literacy and numeracy must be met if it has not already.

## Level 3

60 level 3 credits + 20 Level 2 or 3 credits to pass NCEA level 3. Level 1 literacy and numeracy must be met if it has not already.

## Excellence & Merit?

If 50 of the credits gained are at Merit or Excellence level your child will get their NCEA certificate endorsed with merit or excellence accordingly.

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# STRIVING FOR UNIVERSITY?

## STUDENTS WILL NEED TO:

- Pass NCEA level 3
- Obtain 14 credits at level 3 in at least three individual UE approved subjects
- Achieve UE numeracy - Obtain 10 level 1 maths credits (At least 4 credits in end of year exams)
- Achieve UE literacy - Obtain 10 level 2 english credits. (At least 4 credits in exams)



# Scholarships



There are thousands of scholarships available for high school students, encourage your child to apply for them. This teaches them skills they will apply for job applications and gives them a chance for free money.

Did you know getting Excellence endorsement at level 2 almost guarantees you \$5,000 from University of Victoria? And merit can gain you \$1,000 from University of Canterbury?

Scholarships databases are accessible from high school computers at

[www.generosity.org.nz/giv-me/](http://www.generosity.org.nz/giv-me/)



## **REMEMBER...**

**NCEA level 2 is the most important year to get good grades. Applying for university occurs half way through students' last year of high school. Therefore NCEA level 2 results are used for applying for scholarships, universities and halls of residence.**

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# The NZQA Website

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/>

## Past Exams

The NZQA website is the home of NCEA resources. On this website students will find past exam papers, marking schedules and model answers. This is the single most valuable resource for students. The exams are very similar year to year so sitting past exams is the best practice for the real thing. After they have tried the exam they can mark themselves using the marking schedules and pick up tips from the model answers. Printing off all of these resources and putting them in a folder will make it easy for your child to practice for the real thing. All these resources can be found here:

<http://www.nzqa.govt.nz/qualifications-standards/qualifications/ncea/subjects/>

## Understanding NCEA in more depth

The same website includes more in-depth (although sometimes confusing) details about the NCEA course and requirements to achieve it)

You can call NZQA helpline on  
0800 697 296

# About the Author

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## Contact Jon

You can contact me with questions about NCEA, effective study tools, choosing a University and scholarships. I'll get back to you within 24 hours.

[bigthinkworkshops@gmail.com](mailto:bigthinkworkshops@gmail.com)

Or just come along to our study workshops in October, for an unparalleled head start in NCEA exam study. You can book in at [www.bigthink.nz](http://www.bigthink.nz)