

SBA Grade 9 Proficiency Level Descriptors

Reading

Advanced Level

The student

- determines meaning of words in context, including precise or technical vocabulary
- evaluates the power, logic, reasonableness, and audience appeal of arguments (e.g., emotional effect of specific word choices and sentence structures, well-supported logical arguments)
- evaluates the intended effects of the author's use of conventions and techniques of genres on the reader (e.g., making inferences and judgments about ironic or hyperbolic statements, identifying impact of rich imagery, identifying multiple levels of meaning)
- uses evidence from text to analyze and evaluate the author's intent for utilizing literary elements and devices and tone

Proficient Level

The student

- determines meaning of words in context using derivational roots and affixes
- identifies complex relationships among words
- makes inferences and draws conclusions across increasingly complex texts
- assesses the validity of an author's ideas
- explains main idea in complex narrative and informative text
- makes generalizations, and assertions based on text
- interprets multi-step directions to solve complex problems
- compares and contrasts literary elements and devices to analyze text
- analyzes, evaluates and makes logical predictions about the importance of plot, setting, character, point of view, theme, and tone to the text
- identifies author's purpose
- makes thematic connections between texts

Below Proficient Level

The student

- determines meaning of content-specific vocabulary, words with multiple meanings, and precise vocabulary
- summarizes main ideas or events from text
- compares and contrasts main ideas or concepts between related texts
- locates evidence within a text to identify an author's message or theme

Far Below Proficient Level

There is a significant need for additional instructional opportunities to achieve the proficient level.

Writing

Advanced Level

In the area of writing, the ninth grade student performing at the advanced level

- effectively and consistently uses precise language to incorporate a thesis statement that clearly identifies the focus idea for the composition into an introduction
- writes well-developed paragraphs that include strong evidence, and places paragraph breaks logically
- organizes ideas using appropriate transitions
- connects conclusion to introduction
- consistently uses a variety of nonfiction forms to inform, describe, or persuade

In the area of proofreading, the ninth grade student performing at the advanced level

- varies beginnings, lengths, and patterns of sentences to improve flow, meaning, and style
- applies rules of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage

In the area of revising writing for clarity, the ninth grade student performing at the advanced level

- revises to improve clarity, logical progression, and support, to delete unneeded details, and to make style, diction, and voice consistent with form

Proficient Level

In the area of writing, the ninth grade student performing at the proficient level

- uses precise language to incorporate a thesis statement that identifies the focus of the composition into an introduction
- writes well-developed paragraphs that include relevant details
- usually places paragraph breaks logically
- organizes ideas using appropriate structure and transitions to maintain unity
- connects conclusion to introduction
- uses a variety of nonfiction forms to inform, describe, and persuade

In the area of proofreading, the ninth grade student performing at the proficient level

- usually varies beginnings, lengths, and patterns of sentences to improve flow, meaning, and style
- usually applies the rules of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage

In the area of revising writing for clarity, the ninth grade student performing at the proficient level

- revises to improve clarity, logical progression, and support, to delete unneeded details, and to make style, diction, and voice consistent with form

Below Proficient Level

In the area of writing, the ninth grade student performing at the below proficient level

- has difficulty incorporating a thesis statement into an introduction
- writes paragraphs that lack focus and support for the main idea
- places paragraph breaks illogically
- shows limited ability to organize ideas in an appropriate structure, to use transitions, and to connect conclusion to introduction
- attempts to write using a variety of nonfiction forms to inform, describe, or persuade

In the area of proofreading, the ninth grade student performing at the below proficient level

- attempts to vary lengths, beginnings, and patterns of sentences to improve flow, meaning, and style
- applies some rules of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, and usage

In the area of revising writing for clarity, the ninth grade student performing at the below proficient level

- fails to revise to improve clarity, logical progression, and support to delete unneeded details, and to make style, diction, and voice consistent with form

Far Below Proficient Level

There is a significant need for additional instructional opportunities to achieve the proficient level.

Mathematics

Advanced Level

The student displays a highly developed understanding of

- high-level concepts involving numbers, inverse operations, exponents, operational relationships, and complex number theory
- complicated problems involving equivalent measures between systems
- methods and computation required to solve sophisticated problems and equations in various forms
- multifaceted patterns
- challenging geometric relationships
- volume and surface area of complex shapes
- the representation and uses of data in multiple formats

Proficient Level

The student demonstrates conceptual understanding of

- real numbers, exponents, mathematical operations, and number theory
- equivalent measures between systems
- measurement techniques involving indirect methods
- using estimation strategies
- describing, extending, and generalizing patterns and functions
- computation involving the four basic operations, ratio, and proportion
- modeling and solving equations in various forms
- properties of angles and circles
- volume and surface area
- solving problems using the coordinate plane
- classification, organization, and analysis of data
- probability

Below Proficient Level

The student shows minimal understanding of

- concepts involving numbers, mathematical operations, number theory, and basic equivalent measures within systems
- solving simple problems involving arithmetic computation
- extending uncomplicated patterns
- familiar geometric concepts
- rudimentary problems involving volume and surface area
- the display and uses of straightforward sets of data

Far Below Proficient Level

There is a significant need for additional instructional opportunities to achieve the proficient level.