

ISTEP+ Performance Level Descriptors English/Language Arts—Grade 10

Grade 10

Pass+

Tenth-grade students performing at the *Pass+* level demonstrate advanced understanding when reading, comparing, and responding to a range of grade-level appropriate texts, including literature and nonfiction. Students display advanced writing skills using appropriate Standard English conventions when producing different writing forms.

When reading **literature**, such as fiction and poetry, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 10 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- analyze in detail how two or more themes or central ideas are shaped and refined over the course of a text;
- analyze the impact of specific word choices on meaning and tone;
- analyze how dynamic characters advance the plot or develop theme; and
- analyze and evaluate how works of literary and cultural significance draw on themes, patterns of events, or character types to render material anew.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 10 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- analyze in detail how two or more central ideas interact and build on one another over the course of a text;
- evaluate the effectiveness of specific word choices on meaning and tone;
- analyze how the author unfolds an analysis or series of ideas or events and the connections among them;
- analyze how specific parts of a text make clear or refine the claims and ideas;
- analyze how an author uses rhetoric to advance perspective or tone; and
- evaluate the argument and assess if reasoning is relevant, sufficient, accurate, and/or fallacious.

When **writing**, students craft well-organized, clearly focused, and detailed argumentative, informative, and narrative compositions, including a response to a literature or nonfiction text, using varied word choices and appropriate Standard English conventions. Specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 10 students scoring at the *Pass+* level include:

- use effective and varied transitions to create cohesion and clarify relationships of ideas in writing and
- create conclusions that effectively follow from and support the argument, exposition, or narrative.

Grade 10 Pass

Tenth-grade students performing at the *Pass* level demonstrate proficient understanding when reading, comparing, and responding to a range of grade-level appropriate texts, including literature and nonfiction. Students display proficient writing skills using mostly appropriate Standard English conventions when producing different writing forms.

When reading **literature**, such as fiction and poetry, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 10 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- cite the textual evidence that most strongly and thoroughly supports analysis of inferences and interpretations drawn from a text;
- analyze the development and introduction of two or more themes or central ideas over the course of a text;
- analyze the meaning of words and phrases, including figurative and connotative meanings;
- analyze the development and interactions of dynamic characters over the course of a text;
- analyze how the author impacts a text through differences in points of view; and
- analyze how a text of literary or cultural significance uses themes, patterns of events, or character types from myths and traditional stories.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 10 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- cite the textual evidence that most strongly and thoroughly supports analysis of inferences and interpretations drawn from a text;
- analyze the development of two or more central ideas over the course of a text;
- analyze the development and introduction of an analysis or series of ideas or events in a text;
- identify and correctly use patterns of word changes that indicate different meanings or parts of speech (e.g., *analyze, analysis, analytical; advocate, advocacy*);
- evaluate how the author's ideas or claims are developed by particular portions of a text;
- delineate and evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text;
- analyze seminal texts, including how they address related themes and concepts; and
- analyze how media include or exclude information to achieve a desired result.

When **writing**, students craft proficient argumentative, informative, and narrative compositions, including a response to a literature or nonfiction text, using varied word choices and mostly appropriate Standard English conventions. Specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 10 students scoring at the *Pass* level include:

- write compositions to convince, explain, or describe, providing developed details and facts that connect to the purpose and acknowledge other points of view;
- use precise words, phrases, sensory language, and content vocabulary and maintain a style and tone that is appropriate to the purpose and audience;
- write focused and detailed compositions with varied, appropriate word choices, logically organized ideas, and well-developed thoughts to create cohesion; and
- create concluding paragraphs.

Grade 10 Did Not Pass

Tenth-grade students performing at the *Did Not Pass* level demonstrate limited understanding when reading, comparing, and responding to a range of grade-level appropriate texts, including literature and nonfiction. Students display limited writing skills using basic, appropriate Standard English conventions when producing different writing forms.

When reading **literature**, such as fiction and poetry, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 10 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- cite textual evidence that supports analysis of a text;
- use context to determine the meaning of words and phrases;
- analyze how an author's choices create structure and order in a text; and
- recognize how dynamic characters develop over the course of a text.

When reading **nonfiction**, such as historical or scientific texts and articles, specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 10 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- cite textual evidence to support analysis of a text;
- use context to determine the meaning of words and phrases;
- determine an author's perspective or purpose in a text; and
- analyze how a specific section of a text corresponds with an idea or claim.

When **writing**, students craft limited argumentative, informative, and narrative compositions, including a response to a literature or nonfiction text, using varied word choices and basic, appropriate Standard English conventions. Specific knowledge, skills, and abilities for Grade 10 students scoring at the *Did Not Pass* level include:

- write compositions that convince, explain, and/or describe with minimal textual support, some sense of audience and purpose, and minimally developed thoughts and
- assess the credibility and accuracy of sources.