

Enhanced Language Arts Proficiency Score Standards 1997-1998

Elementary Enhanced Language at Grade 4

These descriptors are effective for academic year 1997-98 only.

<i>Proficiency Level</i>	Proficiency Descriptors
Advanced	<p>Demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a clear voice, a sense of purpose and audience;• writing that is interesting to read, is focused, and has logical, well-developed support;• a command of language usage, spelling, syntax, punctuation, and capitalization;• recognition and correction of errors in tense, and in the forms of plurals and pronouns; and• editing of most mechanics and usage errors in the writing of others. <p><i>(scale scores 704 and above)</i></p>
Proficient	<p>Demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• organized writing that is focused on the topic; ideas are developed and supported by detail;• generally correct sentence structure, language usage, spelling, syntax, and mechanics; and• editing for obvious usage and mechanical errors in the writing of others. <p><i>(scale scores 649 to 703)</i></p>
Basic	<p>Demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• somewhat competent writing with some evidence of organization, though it may be inconsistently implemented;• somewhat competent writing with ideas only partially developed with few supporting details;• errors in usage, mechanics, and syntax are sufficient to detract from meaning occasionally; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • somewhat competent editing the writing of others for terminal punctuation, fundamental usage errors, and capitalization of names of persons, places, days of the week, months of the year, and the pronoun "I." <p><i>(scale scores 606 to 648)</i></p>
Minimal Performance	Limited achievement. Evidence of major misconceptions or gaps in the knowledge and skills tested.

*Enhanced Language score combines the writing essay with the Language Arts test .

Middle Level **Enhanced* Language** at Grade 8

Effective for academic year 1997-98 only

<i>Proficiency Level</i>	Proficiency Descriptors
Advanced	<p>Demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • writing which illustrates a personal style in word choice, detail and original ideas; • focused, fully developed and clearly written work; and • command of mechanics and usage, or finding and correction of errors. <p>Can respond adequately to an on-demand writing task. Demonstrates mastery of identifying correct mechanics, usage, organization, and style.</p> <p><i>(scale scores 753 and above)</i></p>
Proficient	<p>Demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • competent writing which is consistently organized and focused, contains well-developed ideas which are supported by relevant details; • written work that is characterized by conventional sentence structure, word choices and transitions; • competent recognition and correction of most errors contained in a proofreading sample; • identification of topic, supporting, and concluding sentences as appropriate to a paragraph, and consistent recognition of correct mechanics, usage and organization. <p><i>(scale scores 708 to 752)</i></p>
Basic	<p>Demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some evidence of organization and focus in writing,

	<p>although not consistently;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work that may contain fragmentary and undeveloped ideas or lists of unrelated details; • use of unconventional sentence structure, word choice or mechanics may draw attention from the content; • identification of the best combination of two simple sentences or an irrelevant sentence embedded in a paragraph; and • somewhat competent recognition of the correct sentence structure and usage. <p><i>(scale scores 650 to 707)</i></p>
Minimal Performance	Limited achievement. Evidence of major misconceptions or gaps in the knowledge and skills tested.

*Enhanced Language score combines the writing essay with the Language Arts test .

High School **Enhanced* Language** at Grade 10

Effective for academic year 1997-98 only

<i>Proficiency Level</i>	Proficiency Descriptors
Advanced	<p>Demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • generation of original ideas and unique style in word choice and detail; • writing with consistent focus, organization, and significant development of ideas; • usage of effective paragraphing and appropriate format; • mastery of language conventions; and • consistent recognition and correction of complex structural errors in the writing of others as well as more typical errors of usage and mechanics. <p><i>(scale scores 757 and above)</i></p>
Proficient	<p>Demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • competent writing that is organized and focused; usage of complete, well-developed thoughts supported by sufficient verification; • conventional use of sentence structure, word choice, and transitions; and • application of usage, mechanics, and format and recognition of most substandard use of these elements.

	<i>(scale scores 715 to 756)</i>
Basic	<p>Demonstrates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • somewhat competent evidence of organization and focus; some underdeveloped ideas, use of simple lists or insufficient detail; • unconventional sentence structure or word choice that may draw attention away from content, as may less than standard usage and mechanics; and • somewhat competent identification of the most obvious errors in the writing of others. <p><i>(scale scores 668 to 714)</i></p>
Minimal Performance	Limited achievement. Evidence of major misconceptions or gaps in the knowledge and skills tested.

*Enhanced Language score combines the writing essay with the Language Arts test .