Detailed description of performance levels in English (9th grade):

Performance levels	What the students can do
Level 1	**The students can:** • Identify very basic, explicit information in simple and familiar texts such as short notices or basic descriptions. • Understand the meaning of individual words and sentences within a short, simple text. • Understand the literal meaning of single sentences or phrases. • Provide factual answers to simple, straightforward questions that require locating information explicitly stated in a short text.
Level 2	In addition to what they can do at Level 1, **the students can**: • Identify specific, explicit information in longer texts on unfamiliar topics. • Recognize some clearly expressed implicit information in longer texts. • Locate specific details to answer direct questions. • Make simple connections between clearly related ideas within a paragraph or short section of text. • Accurately answer straightforward factual questions. • Show understanding of a text's purpose when explicitly stated or very obvious (for example, to inform, to persuade). • Understand the main idea of texts appropriate for 9th-grade students (for example, short articles, simple narratives).
Level 3	In addition to what they can do at levels 1 and 2, the **students can:** • Identify both explicit and clearly stated implicit information from various parts of a text as well as from the text as a whole. • Understand the author's main purpose and the overall message of the text. • Make connections and identify relationships between ideas presented in different parts of a text. • Draw logical inferences and basic conclusions based on information from across the text.

	• Differentiate between the main idea, claims and supporting details in an argument. • Begin to demonstrate critical thinking by, for example, identifying the writer's viewpoint when it is clearly implied.
Level 4	In addition to what they can do at levels 1,2 and 3, **the students can:** • Identify implicit information and deeper meanings within a text. • Draw conclusions supported by evidence from the text. • Critically evaluate the content of a text (for example, distinguishing between fact and opinion). • Understand the characteristics of various text types and analyze the author's purpose and intended audience. • Demonstrate strong critical and creative thinking skills when engaging with a text, including evaluating its effectiveness or proposing alternative interpretations supported by evidence. • Synthesize information from multiple parts of a text to answer complex questions that require integration.