

Command words

Command words are the words and phrases used in exams and other assessment tasks that tell students how they should answer a question.

The following command words are from Ofqual's official list. Their meanings are relevant to this subject.

Analyse

Look at the information provided and break it down to identify and interpret the main points being raised

Apply

Put into effect in a recognized way

Assess

Make an informed judgment

Calculate

Provide mathematical answers

Define

Specify meaning

Describe

Set out characteristics

Discuss

Present key points about different ideas or strengths and weaknesses of an idea

Draw

Produce a diagram

Evaluate

Judge from available evidence

Explain

Set out purposes or reasons

Identify

Name/state or characterise

Justify

Support a case with evidence

Label

Provide appropriate names on a diagram

Recommend

Suggest solutions / options

State

Express yourself clearly and briefly