



# Command words

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

The following command words are taken from Ofqual's official list. Their meanings are relevant to this subject. We've added our own command words and their meanings to complement Ofqual's list.

## Analyse

Separate information into components and identify their characteristics.

## Annotate

Add notation or labelling to a graph, diagram or other drawing.

## Apply

Put into effect in a recognised way.

## Argue

Present a reasoned case.

## Assess

Make an informed judgement.

## Calculate

Work out the value of something.

## Comment

Present an informed opinion.

## Compare

Identify similarities and/or differences.

## Complete

Finish a task by adding to given information.

## Consider

Review and respond to given information.

## Contrast

Identify differences.

## Criticise

Assess worth against explicit expectations.

## Debate

Present different perspectives on an issue.

## Deduce

Draw conclusions from information provided.

## Define

Specify meaning.

## Describe

Give an account of.

## Design

Set out how something will be done.

## Determine

Use given data or information to obtain an answer.

## Develop

Take forward or build upon given information.

## Discuss

Present key points.

## Distinguish

List the differences between different items.

## Draw

Produce a diagram.

## Estimate

Assign an approximate value.

## Evaluate

Judge from available evidence.

## Explain

Give reasons.

## Explore

Investigate without preconceptions about the outcome.

## Give

Produce an answer from recall or from given information.

## Identify

Name or otherwise characterise.

## Justify

Support a case with evidence.

## Label

Provide appropriate names on a diagram.

## List

List a number of features or points without further elaboration.

## Name

Identify using a recognised technical term.

## Outline

Set out main characteristics.

## Predict

Give a plausible outcome.

## Relate

Give a technical term or its equivalent.

## Show

Provide structured evidence to reach a conclusion.

## Sketch

Draw approximately.

## State

Express in clear terms.