

Worksheet 7: Command words answers

Command word	Explanation and guidance
<i>Analyse</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • examine in detail to show meaning, identify elements and the relationship between them • answer questions like how/why • use linking devices such as 'thus', 'therefore', 'as a result', 'leading to', 'because', 'since', etc. • construct reasoned arguments by linking two or more points together
<i>Calculate</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work out from given facts, figures or information • include the unit of measurement if necessary • mind the year / period referred to in the question • write the formula first and then substitute
<i>Define</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give precise meaning • keep your answer short and concise • one sentence should be enough • examples are not credited, unless the question specifically asks you for one
<i>Describe</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • state the points of a topic / give characteristics and main features • outline rather than analyse
<i>Discuss</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • write about issue(s) or topic(s) in depth in a structured way • such questions require longer, more detailed answers • answer must be two-sided • include detailed analysis
<i>Explain</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set out purposes or reasons / make the relationships between things evident / provide why and/or how and support with relevant evidence • provide examples
<i>Give</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • produce an answer from a given source or recall / memory • short answer required
<i>Identify</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • name/select/recognise • short and specific answer required • answers may have to come from a source material, not your own ideas / knowledge • no need to explain your answer
<i>State</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • express in clear terms • no need to explain your answer