



COMMAND WORDS

Apply

This is asking you to put something to practical use; not just talking about the theory but showing how the theory works in practice.

Assess

This is asking you to judge the worth, importance or value of something, whether in monetary terms or not.

Compare and contrast

Explain how things are similar and how they are different.

Define

Here you need to give the specific meaning of words, terms, etc. It may be the definition from a textbook or you could use your own words.

Describe

Provide a detailed account of a topic and give reasons for it

Discuss

Examine by giving positive and negatives. Think about: advantages, disadvantages, and give a conclusion.

Analyse

This is asking you to examine something in detail; break it down into smaller parts and give detailed explanations with examples if appropriate.

Calculate / compute

You have to do the maths!

Classify

This is asking you to arrange or put things into groups or classes. You will need to explain why you have put each in a particular list and not one of the others.

Criticise

Examine all the positive and negative aspects of a topic.

Demonstrate/show

You need to show or prove something to be true, beyond any doubt, or show that it applies in the situation described, by giving evidence.

Distinguish

The key is only to write about the features of each of the things that make them different from each other.

Evaluate

Make a judgement about how good or bad/ successful or unsuccessful something is, usually against a specific criteria.
In Maths it means – work out/ calculate!

Examine

Inspect carefully or look at in detail; investigate, and explain what you have seen.

Explain

Give a clear account of your knowledge and understanding, or give reasons for why something is so.

Give

Outline your points briefly.

Identify

Apply bits of your knowledge to the context or the situation described in the question.

Illustrate

Explain using examples.
Depending on the subject you could draw a diagram or do a quick calculation as a way of illustrating.

Interpret/evaluate

Explain your view of facts and ideas and how they relate to one another.
'Interpret' is often the second stage of 'analyse'.

Justify

Give evidence which supports an argument or idea. Show why decisions or arguments were made considering objections others may make.

List

Asking you to simply remember items and write them in the form of a list.

Outline

Just give the main features or general idea.

Recommend

Identify, explain and evaluate before you recommend or suggest a way forward.

Review

Give an overview of ideas and talk about their qualities and features.

State

Write what you are asked about in a clear, simple and 'to the point' way; no need to explain or clarify, unless you think that what you've written isn't clear.

Summarise

Give the important ideas in brief.