

Command Verbs and Terms

Each question will start with a '**command**' verb which gives you an idea of what level of detail you need to go into to achieve.

Identify – this type of question usually tests your skill of remembering information. It can mean that you need to select from a list of options, point something out or give a list of main features.

Describe this can be seen as the '**what is it?**' command verb. For this you will need to provide a series of points, which usually need to be linked, that includes all the main features.

Explain – this is the '**how does something work/do?**' command. For this you will need to provide an explanation with reasoning. You will need to use words such as 'because' or 'therefore' to help you to provide explanations.

Discuss – you will need to provide a response that explores the issue or situation that is being targeted in the question. You should consider different viewpoints and contrasting ideas such as 'advantages v disadvantages' or 'strengths v weaknesses'.

Analyse – here an idea or information needs to be examined and each part explored. Provide good detail in your answer with justified reasons for any conclusions you reach. Analysing requires the writer to break something down into components.

Evaluate – this is when you are required to provide a reasoned argument. Much like 'discuss' you are expected to give both points of view, consider 'strengths v weaknesses' or 'advantages v disadvantages'. However, you must then provide a conclusion in which you make a decision on the most appropriate option and justify your choice.