

Command words

- Identifying command words within a question will help students focus on the requirements of a response.
- Misinterpretation is a common issue in exams.
- Spending time defining these words will help students better understand.

Command words

- Explain – set out purpose or reasons.
- Discuss – present key points about different ideas or strengths and weaknesses of an idea.
- Compare – identify similarities and differences.
- State – express clearly and briefly.
- Define – specify meaning.
- Evaluate – judge from available evidence.
- Analyse – separate information into components to identify their characteristics.
- Analyse and evaluate
 - o Sometimes, both command words are used. In these situations, students must analyse and evaluate in their response.
 - o Responses that only analyse or evaluate are most likely to score in the bottom part of the marking grid.

Command words: Explain

- Give clear reasons/purposes.
- Use full sentences. One word or short answers do not explain a response.
- These are unlikely to be essay-style questions. Keep your answer to the length implied in the marks available.

Command words: Compare

- Relate responses to the context given.
- Write a well-balanced response, detailing both options.
- Make a clear comparison between both options, not just an evaluation or analysis of each one separately.
- Ensure there's a clearly justified conclusion.

Command words: Evaluate

- If an image is provided, use evidence that can be seen in the image to formulate the answer.
- Additional knowledge about a product that can't be seen directly in an image may still be awarded relevant marks.
- Justify any points that you make (what is the basis/evidence for your judgements?).
- Consider both positives and negatives in the available evidence.
- Make a judgement at the end of the response.

Command words: Analyse

- If images are used, base responses on the evidence in the images.
- For each analytical point made, clearly state how you know this to be true.
- Make sure that points made are distinctly different from each other.
- A judgement is not required (this would be evaluation).