Command words

Command words are the words and phrases used in assessment tasks that tell students how they should answer questions.

The following command words are taken from Ofqual's official list of command words and their meanings that are relevant to this subject. In addition, where necessary, we have included our own command words and their meanings to complement Ofqual's list.

**Calculate**

Work out the value of something.

**Compare**

Identify similarities and/or differences.

**Complete**

Finish a task by adding to given information.

**Convert**

Change data from one specified form to another.

**Define**

Specify meaning.

**Describe**

Set out characteristics.

**Develop**

Take forward or build upon given information.

**Discuss**

Present key points.

**Draw**

Produce a diagram.
Explain
Set out purposes or reasons.

Extend
Further develop based on existing information.

Give
Produce an answer from recall.

Justify
Support a case with evidence.

State
Express in clear terms.

Suggest
Present a possible case/solution.