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.