

Teacher Resource Bank

GCE Product Design (Textiles)

Command Words used in Examinations



Command Words used in GCE Product Design (Textiles) Examinations

Before starting to answer a question, it is good practice to spend a few moments analysing what is being asked. The following *command words* are often used to give you an instruction about what you are expected to do in your response to a question.

Command word	What it is asking you to do
Analyse	Separate information into different components and identify their characteristics. <i>Eg, Analyse the ways in which the designer has tried to develop interest in the fashion collection shown.</i>
Argue	Present a reasoned case. <i>Eg, Argue the case for using disposable surgeon's gowns rather than ones which can be washed and used again.</i>
Assess	Make an informed judgement. <i>Eg, Assess the importance of thermoplastic fibres in the finishing of fabrics.</i>
Comment	Present an informed opinion. <i>Eg, Comment on the wearing of a uniform to show corporate identity.</i>
Compare	Identify similarities. <i>Eg, Compare the style of an outfit from 1900 with one from today's fashions in terms of their suitability for career wear.</i>
Consider	Review and respond to given information. <i>Eg, Consider the way in which the designer has used different fabrics to provide interest in the furnishing collection shown.</i>
Contrast	Identify differences. <i>Eg, Contrast the use of a lining with that of an underlining when making fashion products.</i>
Criticise	Assess worth against explicit expectations. <i>Eg, Criticise the use of a weft knitted wool fabric for a winter sweater.</i>
Define	Specify meaning. <i>Eg, Define the term smart textile.</i>
Describe	Set out characteristics. <i>Eg, Describe one fabric which uses a traditional ethnic construction method.</i>
Discuss	Present salient points. <i>Eg, Discuss the issues facing major retailers of textile products in relation to consumer demand for ethical trading.</i>
Evaluate	Judge from available evidence. You should consider the pros and cons of the situation you have been presented with, especially if the question asks you to critically evaluate . <i>Eg, Evaluate the use of a polyester lining fabric for a jacket.</i>

Examine	Investigate closely. <i>Eg, Examine the reasons for using non-woven fabrics for disposable products.</i>
Explain	Set out purposes or reasons. <i>Eg, Explain the difference between the selvedge and the raw edge of a woven fabric.</i>
Identify	Name or otherwise characterise. <i>Eg, Identify two different features of Pierre Cardin's designs which made them inspirational in the 1960s.</i>
Illustrate	Present clarifying examples. <i>Eg, Illustrate the ways in which designers present their ideas to different client groups.</i>
Interpret	Translate information into recognisable form. <i>Eg, Interpret the meaning of the symbols on the care label shown.</i>
Justify	Present a reasoned case. <i>Eg, Justify the use of the different components in the fashion bag.</i>
Outline	Set out main characteristics. <i>Eg, Outline some of the possible problems a manufacturer may experience when working with knitted fabrics.</i>
Relate	Demonstrate interconnections. <i>Eg, Relate the development of static electricity to the nature of synthetic fibres.</i>
State	Express in unequivocal terms. <i>Eg, State the meaning of the term colourfastness.</i>
Summarise	Present principal points without detail. <i>Eg, Summarise the main reasons for using automated manufacturing systems for fashion products.</i>