

## Glossary of command terms

### Command terms for studies in language and literature

Students should be familiar with the following key terms and phrases used in assessment objectives and assessment criteria, which are to be understood as described below. Some of these terms may be also used in examination questions, but most of them will be more frequently used to describe levels of achievement in the descriptors of the different assessment criteria.

Command term	Assessment objective level	Definition
Analyse	2,3	Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure.
Comment	2,3	Give a judgment based on a given statement or result of a calculation.
Compare	1,2,3	Give an account of the similarities between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.
Compare and contrast	1,2,3	Give an account of similarities and differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.
Contrast	1,2,3	Give an account of the differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.
Describe	1,3	Give a detailed account.
Discuss	1,2,3	Offer a considered and balanced review that includes a range of arguments, factors or hypotheses. Opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence.
Evaluate	2,3	Make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and limitations.
Examine	2,3	Consider an argument or concept in a way that uncovers the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue.
Explain	1,2,3	Give a detailed account including reasons or causes.
Explore	2,3	Undertake a systematic process of discovery.
Interpret	1,3	Use knowledge and understanding to recognize trends and draw conclusions from given information.
Investigate	1,2	Observe, study, or make a detailed and systematic examination, in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.
Justify	1,2,3	Give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion.
Present	3	Offer for display, observation, examination or consideration.

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Command term	Assessment objective level	Definition
To what extent	1,2,3	Consider the merits or otherwise of an argument or concept. Opinions and conclusions should be presented clearly and supported with appropriate evidence and sound argument.