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Command Terms Defined

Command Term	Definitions
Analyze	Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure. To identify parts and relationships, and to interpret information to reach conclusion.
Annotate	Add brief notes to a diagram or graph
Apply	Use knowledge and understanding in response to a given situation or real circumstances. Use an idea, equation, principle, theory or law in relation to given problem or issue (See also “Use”).
Calculate	Obtain a numerical answer showing the relevant stages in the working.
Classify	Arrange or order by class or category.
Comment	Give a judgment based on a given statement or result of a calculation.
Compare	Give an account of the similarities between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.
Compare & contrast	Give an account of the similarities and differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

Command Term	Definition
Construct	Display information in a diagrammatic or logical form.
Contrast	Give an account of the differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.
Create	To evolve from one's own thought or imagination, as a work or an invention.
Critique	Provide a critical review or commentary, especially when dealing with works of art or literature. (See also "Evaluate".)
Deduce	Reach a conclusion from the information given.
Define	Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity
Demonstrate	Make clear by reasoning or evidence, illustrating with examples or practical application.
Derive	Manipulate a mathematical relationship to give a new equation or relationship.

Command Term	Definitions
Describe	Give detailed account or picture of a situation, event, pattern or process.
Design	Produce a plan, simulation or model.
Determine	Obtain the only possible answer.
Develop	To improve incrementally, elaborate or expand in detail. Evolve to a more advanced or effective state.
Differentiate	Obtain the derivative of a function.
Discuss	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.
Distinguish	Make clear the difference between two or more concepts items.
Document	Credit sources of information used by referencing (or citing) following a recognized referencing system. References should be included in the text and also at the end of the piece of work in a reference list or bibliography.

Command Term	Definitions
Draw	Represent by means of a labelled, accurate diagram or graph, using a pencil. A ruler (straight edge) should be used for straight lines. Diagrams should be drawn to scale. Graphs should have points correctly plotted (if appropriate) and joined in a straight line or smooth curve.
Estimate	Obtain an approximate value for an unknown quantity.
Evaluate	Make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and limitations. (See also “Critique”.)
Examine	Consider an argument or concept in way that uncovers the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue.
Explain	Give a detailed account including reasons or causes. (See also “Justify”.)
Explore	Undertake a systematic process of discovery.
Find	Obtain an answer showing relevant stages in the working
Formulate	Express precisely and systematically the relevant concept(s) or argument(s).
Hence	Use the preceding work to obtain the required result.

Command Term	Definitions
Otherwise	It is suggested that the preceding work is used, but other methods could also receive credit.
Identify	Provide an answer from a number of possibilities. Recognize and state briefly a distinguishing fact or feature.
Integrate	Obtain the integral of a function.
Interpret	Use knowledge and understanding to recognize trends and draw conclusions from given information.
Investigate	Observe, study, or make a detailed and systematic examination, in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions

Command Term	Definitions
Justify	Give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion. (See also “Explain”.)
Label	Add a title, labels or brief explanations(s) to a diagram or graph.
List	Give a sequence of brief answers with no explanation.
Measure	Obtain a value for a quantity.
Organize	Put ideas and information into a proper or systematic order.
Outline	Give a brief account or summary.
Plot	Mark the position of points on a diagram.
Predict	Give an expected result of an upcoming action or event.
Present	Offer for display, observation, examination or consideration.
Prioritize	Give relative importance to, or put in an order of preference.
Prove	Use a sequence of logical steps to obtain the required result in a formal way

Command Term	Definitions
Select	Choose from a list or group.
Show	Give the steps in a calculation or derivation.
Show that	Obtain the required result (possibly using information given) without the formality of proof. "Show that" questions do not generally require the use of a calculator.
Sketch	Represent by means of a diagram or graph (labelled as appropriate). The sketch should give a general idea of the required shape or relationship, and should include relevant features.
Solve	Obtain the answer(s) using algebraic and/or numerical and/or graphical methods.
State	Give a specific name, value or other brief answer without explanation or calculation.
Suggest	Propose a solution, hypothesis or other possible answer.
Summarize	Abstract a general theme or major point(s).
Synthesize	Combine different ideas in order to create new understanding

Command Term	Definitions
To what extent	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.
Trace	Follow and record the action of an algorithm.
Use	Apply knowledge or rules to put theory into practice. (see also “Apply”.)
Verify	Provide evidence that validates the result.
Write down	Obtain the answer(s), usually by extracting information. Little or no calculation is required. Working does not need to be shown.

Command Terms and Achievement Levels

Level	Command Terms
1-2	Define, Find, Label, Recall and State
3-4	Apply, Describe, Distinguish, Outline and Use
5-6	Compare, Deduce, Explain and Interpret
7-8	Analyze, Discuss, Evaluate, Justify, Create and Design

Achievement Levels: 1-2

Term	Definition
State	Give a specific name, value or other brief answer without explanation or calculation.
Label	Add a title, labels or brief explanation(s) to a diagram or graph.
Recall	Remember or recognize from prior learning experiences.
Find	Obtain an answer showing relevant stages in the working.
List	Give a sequence of brief answers with no explanation.
Define	Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity.

Achievement Levels: 3-4

Term	Definition
Describe	Give a specific name, value or other brief answer without explanation or calculation.
Apply	Use knowledge and understanding in response to a given situation or real circumstances. Use an idea, equation, principle, theory or law in relation to a given problem or issue.
Distinguish	Make clear the differences between two or more concepts or items.
Outline	Give a brief account or summary.
Use	Apply knowledge or rules to put theory into practice.

Achievement Levels: 5-6

Term	Definition
Explain	Give a detailed account including reasons or causes.
Deduce	Reach a conclusion from the information given.
Interpret	Use knowledge and understanding to recognize trends and draw conclusions from given information.
Compare	Give an account of the similarities between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

Achievement Levels: 7-8

Term	Definition
Analyze	Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure. (To identify parts and relationships, and interpret information to reach conclusions.)
Discuss	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	Make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and limitations.
Justify	Give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion.
Create	Evolve from one's own thought or imagination, as a work or an invention.
Design	Produce a plan, simulation or model.