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<th>Command Terms from the International Baccalaureate (IB) Program/Across Disciplines</th>
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To credit sources of information used by referencing (or citing) following one 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.

Estimate

Find an approximate value for an unknown quantity.

Evaluate

To assess the implications and limitations; to make judgments about the ideas, works, solutions or methods in relation to selected criteria.

Examine

Consider an argument or concept in a way that uncovers the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue.

Exemplify

Represent with an example.

Explain

Give a detailed account including reasons or causes.

Explore

Undertake a systematic process of discovery.

Formulate

Express precisely and systematically the relevant concept(s) or argument(s).

Identify

Provide an answer from a number of possibilities. Recognize and state briefly a distinguishing factor or feature.

Infer

Deduce; reason from premises to a conclusion. Listen or read beyond what has been literally expressed.

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.

Justify

Give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion.

Label

Add title, labels or brief explanation(s) to a diagram or graph.

List

Give a sequence of brief answers with no explanation.

Measure

Find the value for a quality.

Outline

Give a brief account or summary.

Predict

Give an expected result of an upcoming action or event.

Present

Offer for display, observation, examination or consideration.

Prove

Use a sequence of logical steps to obtain the required result in a formal way.

Recall

Recognize or identify

Reflect

To think about deeply; consider.

Recognize

Identify or recall particular features.
Show  
Give steps in a derivation or calculation.

Sketch  
Represent by means of a diagram or graph (labeled 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).

To What should be Extent  
Consider the merits or otherwise of an argument or concept. Opinions and conclusions presented clearly and supported with appropriate evidence and sound judgment.

Use  
Apply knowledge or rules to put theory into practice.

### Additional Command Terms Commonly Found on Constructed Exam Questions

**AGREE OR DISAGREE**
Support or refute a statement; give the positive or negative features; express an informed opinion one way or the other; list the advantages for or against.

**ASSESS THE DEGREE**
Command words such as these strongly suggest to the student that two schools of thought exist about a given subject. These questions often involve weighing the relative merit of conflicting points of view; e.g., negative vs. positive, strong vs. weak, fundamental vs. immediate.

**GIVE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF**
Present information which determines the importance of an event or issue. Quite often used to show causation.

**SUPPORT / REFUTE**
Give the points in favor of, or opposed to, a predetermined point of view or particular position. Also see **AGREE / DISAGREE**
While students should generally support or refute the given statement, their responses may include opposing points.

**Common Variations of Previously Stated Command Terms**

- Assess the relative importance of...
- Critically assess...
- Would you agree...
- How far...
- Weigh...
- Advise...
- Organize...
- What factors...
- Show how...
- What trends...
- Draw on your knowledge...
- Illustrate...
- Account for...
- Hypothesize...
- Integrate...
- Review...
- Criticize