

## Appendix 5: Taxonomy

The following table lists the command words used in the external assessments.

Command word	Definition
Calculate	Work out a numerical problem using mathematical processes or formulae using the appropriate processes in their response. Requires showing how the answer has been worked out. Points-based mark scheme may credit use of correct formulae, use of correct steps/stages of calculation (evidenced by showing workings), correct outcome.
Describe	Give an account of the main characteristics of something or the steps in a process. Statements in the response should be developed but do <b>not</b> need to include a justification or reason.
Discuss	Identify the issue/situation/problem/concept/argument within the question. Explore aspects of the issue/element/situation/problem/concept/argument. Investigate the issue/situation etc. by reasoning or argument. Does not require a conclusion.
Evaluate	Measure the value or success of something and ultimately provide a substantiated judgement/conclusion. Review information and then bring it together to form a conclusion, drawing on evidence such as strengths, weaknesses, alternatives and relevant data.
Explain	Providing an answer and a reason or set of reasons qualifying the answer, such as reasons why something can be considered to fulfil a need, provide a purpose, communicate an intention. The answer must contain some element of reasoning/justification; may be used to support a given statement.
Give/State/Name	All of these command words are really synonyms. They generally all require recall of one or more pieces of information.
Identify	Usually requires some key information to be selected from a given stimulus/resource.
Use annotated sketches to show	Using graphical depiction with annotation, give an account of a 'process' showing the steps or stages of the process in the correct sequence/order, or give an account of 'something' showing a series of features/points/trends. The number of points/depth of answer required will be indicated by the mark allocation.

Please refer to the *Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in Design and Technology Sample Assessment Materials (SAMs)* for the application of these command words.