



Glossary of terms used for externally-assessed units

The following table shows the key terms that will be used consistently by Pearson in our assessments to ensure learners are rewarded for demonstrating the necessary skills. Please note: the list below will not necessarily be used in every paper/session and is provided for guidance only.

Command word	
Adaptations	Any alteration in the structure or function of something.
Analyse	Learners examine in detail, in order to discover the meaning or essential features of a theme, topic or situation, or break something down into its components or examining factors methodically and in detail. To identify separate factors, say how they are related and explain how each one contributes to the topic.
Assess	Learners present a careful consideration of varied factors or events that apply to a specific situation or identifies those which are the most important or relevant to arrive at a conclusion.
Describe	Learners give an account, or details, of 'something' or give an account of a 'process'.
Discuss	Learners identify the issue/situation/problem/ argument that is being assessed in the question given, exploring all aspects and investigating fully.
Evaluate	Learners review information before bringing it together to form a conclusion or come to a supported judgement of a subject's qualities in relation to its context, drawing on evidence: strengths, weaknesses, alternative actions, relevant data or information.
Explain	Learners convey understanding by making a point/statement or by linking the point/statement with a justification/expansion.
Function	An act, process, or series of processes that serve a purpose.
Give	Learners can provide examples, justifications and/or reasons to a context.
Guidance	Advice or information aimed at resolving something.
Identify	Learners assess factual information that

Command word	
	may require a single word answer, although sometimes a few words or a maximum of a single sentence are required.
Interpretation	Learners are able to draw the meaning, purpose or qualities of something from stimulus.
Intervention	An action performed to bring about change in people or teams.
Justification/rationalisation	Learners give reasons or evidence to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • support an opinion and or decision • prove something right or reasonable.
Modify	To make partial or minor changes to something.
Phase of event	A distinct stage of a sporting event.
Psychological factors	Examples are motivation, anxiety, arousal, stress, self-confidence, mindset, aggression.
Relevance	Important to the matter at hand.
Recommend	Learners put forward (someone or something) with approval as being suitable for a particular purpose or role.
State	Give a definition or example. Give an answer to a calculation.
State/name	Learners give a definition or example.
Strategies	Method or plan to bring about a desired outcome, such as the achievement of a goal or a solution to a problem.
To what extent	Learners review information then bring it together to form a judgement or conclusion, following the provision of a balanced and reasoned argument.