

## Command word taxonomy

The following table shows the list of command verbs and their definitions for use in the Edexcel GCSE Computer Science 2016 question papers.

Command	Definition
Amend	Requires changes/additions/deletions/rearrangement of a symbolic representation
Analyse	Examine elements in detail;
Assess	Give careful consideration to all the factors or events that apply and identify which are the most important or relevant. Make a judgement on the importance of something, and come to a conclusion where needed.
Calculate	Obtain a numerical answer, showing relevant working. If the answer has a unit, this must be included.
Compare and/or contrast	Looking for the similarities <b>and/or</b> differences of two (or more) things. Should not require the drawing of a conclusion. Answer must relate to both (or all) things mentioned in the question.
Complete	Requires the completion of a table/diagram/algorithm (in any notation).
Construct	Usually requires creation of an artefact using subject specific symbolic representation, rules, and syntax
Convert	Requires changing information in one symbolic representation to another representation May require amending to provide new functionality/facility
Create	Usually requires creation of an artefact using subject specific symbolic representations.
Deduce	Draw/reach conclusion(s) from the information provided.
Describe	To give an account of something. Statements in the response need to be developed as they are often linked but do not need to include a justification or reason.
Devise	Plan or invent a procedure from existing principles/ideas
Discuss	Identify the issue/situation/problem/argument that is being assessed within the question Explore all aspects of an issue/situation/problem/argument Investigate the issue/situation etc. by reasoning or argument
Draw	Produce a diagram/image either using a ruler or using freehand. May require labelling/annotation to express meaning Used when symbolic representations need to be manipulated
Evaluate	Review information then bring it together to form a conclusion, drawing on evidence including strengths, weaknesses, alternative actions, relevant data or information. Come to a supported judgement of a subject's qualities and relation to its context.
Explain	An explanation requires a justification/exemplification of a point. The answer must contain some element of reasoning/justification, this can include mathematical/logical explanations.

	<p>The mark scheme must have marking points which are linked. The answer MUST contain some element of reasoning/justification to satisfy the definition of explain</p> <p>The mark scheme should be clearly laid out so that to gain full marks there must be a minimum of 1 mark for some element of reasoning/justification to satisfy the definition of explain.</p>
Give/State/Name	All of these command words are really synonyms. They generally all require recall of one or more pieces of information.
Give a reason/reasons	When a statement has been made and the requirement is only to give the reasons why.
Identify	Usually requires some key information to be selected from a given stimulus/resource.
Predict	Give an expected result.
State and justify / Identify and justify	When a selection is made and a justification has to be given for the selection.
State what is meant by	When the meaning of a term is expected but there are different ways of how these can be described.
Write	Usually requires manipulation/creation/amending of an artefact using subject specific symbolic representations.