

Appendix 6: Command word taxonomy

A list of all the command words and their definitions that may appear in the examination papers for Components 1 and 2 is given below.

Command word	Definition
Assess	Requires reasoned argument of factors to reach a judgement regarding their importance/relevance to the question context. For example 'Assess the relative importance of....'
Analyse	Break something down into its component parts
Calculate	Requires computation in relation to fitness data
Classify	Required to group or place on a scale based on characteristics/analysis of characteristics
Complete	Required to add information based on a stimulus/resource. This could be to complete a table, graph, chart or missing word/phrase from a sentence/statement
Define	Required to give the meaning or definition of a word/term
Describe	Account of something without reasons. Statements in the response need to be linked, for example 'Describe the lever system operating at the elbow....'
Discuss	Required to explore the issue/situation/problem that is being assessed in the question context, articulating different or contrasting viewpoints, for example advantages, disadvantages.
Examine	Requires a justification/exemplification of a point based on some analysis or evaluation within the response. For example, 'Examine the role of the first class lever system....'
Explain	Requires a justification/exemplification of a point. The answer must contain some linked reasoning. For example, the format of the response may be 'fact... because... therefore....'
Evaluate	Review/analyse information, bringing it together to form a conclusion/judgement based on strengths/weaknesses, alternatives, relevant data or information. Come to a supported judgement of a subject's qualities and relation to its context
Give	Generally involves the recall of a fact, or an example based on the given stimulus. For example, 'Give an example of a specific sporting movement....' Can be synonymous with identify/state.
Identify	Can require a selection from a given stimulus or resource, for example an option from a multiple-choice question or analysis of data from source material such as a graph, or can be synonymous with give/state
Justify	Give reasons for answers. This could range from a single response to extended writing answers, depending on question context. For example, 'Justify the use of interval training to improve....'

Command word	Definition
Label	Requires addition of named structures or features to a diagram
Predict	Often used in data related questions, for example where it requires a prediction of what is likely to happen in future, based on given data
Select	Requires a choice based on an evaluation of information from a given stimulus/resource
State	Generally involves the recall of a fact, for example 'State one benefit of exercise....' but can, when used in relation to a context, be used to determine a student's grasp of information presented, for example a data analysis question. Can be synonymous with give/identify
Using an example	Often used with explain or describe, where an example is required to exemplify the point(s) being made
Which	Mainly used in multiple-choice questions where a selection from a set of options is required, for example 'Which one of the following....'