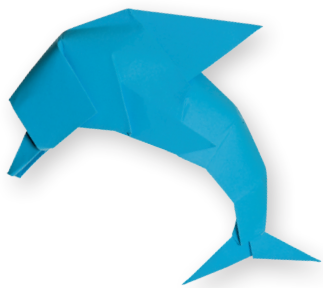


GCSE (9–1) Mathematics

Command words



Here are the most commonly used command words that you might see in different questions throughout your exam.

Explain

Write a sentence or a mathematical statement to show how you got to your answer or reached your conclusion.

Show

All working needed to get to a given answer **or** complete a diagram to show given information.

Expand

Remove brackets.

Describe

Write a sentence that gives the features of the situation.

Justify

Show all working and/or give a written explanation.

Draw

Produce an accurate drawing (unless a sketch is being drawn).

Find

Some working will be needed to get to the final answer.

Expand and simplify

Remove brackets and then collect like terms.

Complete

Fill in missing values.

x	y
	-3
-1	
0	1
	3
2	5

Solve

Find the solution of an equation or inequality.

Draw a sketch of... Sketch

Produce a drawing that does not have to be drawn to scale or a graph that is drawn without working out each coordinate.

Factorise

Insert brackets by taking out common factors.

Work out

Some working will be needed in order to get the answer.

Write down

No working is needed.

Solve algebraically

Find the solution of an equation or inequality; algebraic manipulation **must** be shown.

Simplify

Simplify the given expression.

Factorise fully

Insert brackets by taking out **all** the common factors.

Change

Usually convert from one unit to another; either using known metric unit conversions or the use of a conversion graph.

Write

No working needed for 1 mark questions.
Working may be needed for questions with more than 1 mark.

Prove

More formal than 'show', all steps must be present. In the case of a geometrical proof, reasons must be given.

Simplify fully

Simplify the given expression. Answer must be given in its simplest form.

Express

Re-write in another form, some working may be needed.

Give a reason

Must be clear and accurate reasons. If the reasons are geometrical then make sure you:

- ✓ provide a reason for each stage of working (if required)
- ✓ use correct geometric terminology.

Calculate

A calculator and some working will be needed.

Prove algebraically

Use algebra in the proof.