

Appendix 3: Exam command word definitions

This table lists the command words that could be used in the examinations for this qualification and their definitions.

Command word	Definition
Identify/state/name	Recall or select one or more pieces of information.
Define	State the meaning of a term.
Calculate	Produce a numerical answer, showing relevant working.
Label	Add a label/labels to a given resource, graphic or image.
Draw/plot	Create a graphical representation of geographical information.
Compare	Find the similarities and differences of two elements given in a question. Each response must relate to both elements and must include a statement of their similarity/difference.
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 not need to include a justification or reason.
Explain	Provide a reasoned explanation of how or why something occurs. An explanation requires a justification/exemplification of a point. Some questions will require the use of annotated diagrams to support the explanation.
Suggest	Apply understanding to provide a reasoned explanation of how or why something may occur. A suggested explanation requires a justification/exemplification of a point.
Examine	Break something down into individual components/processes and say how each one individually contributes to the question's theme/topic and how the components/processes work together and interrelate.
Assess	Use evidence to determine the relative significance of something. Give consideration to all factors and identify which are the most important.
Analyse	Investigate an issue by breaking it down into individual components and making logical, evidence-based connections about the causes and effects or interrelationships between the components.
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.
Discuss	Explore the strengths and weaknesses of different sides of an issue/question. Investigate the issue by reasoning or argument.