

PASS COMMAND VERBS

DESCRIBE

Give a clear description that includes all the relevant features. Think of it as 'painting a picture with words'.

DEFINE

Clearly explain what a particular term means and give an example, if appropriate, to show what you mean.

DESIGN

Create a plan, proposal or outline to illustrate a straightforward concept or idea.

EXPLAIN

Set out in detail the meaning of something, with reasons. More difficult than describing or listing so it can help to give an example to show what you mean. Start by introducing the topic then give the 'how' or 'why'.

IDENTIFY

Point out (ie choose the right one) or give a list of the main features.

ILLUSTRATE

Include examples or a diagram to show what you mean.

INTERPRET

Define or explain the meaning of something.

LIST

Provide the information in a list, rather than in continuous writing.

OUTLINE

Write a clear description but not a detailed one.

PLAN

Work out and plan how you would carry out a task or activity.

STATE

Write a clear and full account.

SUMMARISE

Write down the main points or essential features.

MERIT COMMAND VERBS

ANALYSE

Identify separate factors, say how they are related and how each one contributes to the topic.

COMPARE / CONTRAST

Identify the main factors that apply in two or more situations and explain the similarities and differences or advantages and disadvantages.

DEMONSTRATE

Provide several relevant examples or related evidence which clearly support the arguments you are making. This may include showing practical skills.

DESIGN

Create a plan, proposal or outline to illustrate a relatively complex concept or idea.

ASSESS

Give careful consideration to all the factors or events that apply and identify which are the most important or relevant.

EXPLAIN IN DETAIL

Provide details and give reasons and/or evidence to clearly support the argument you are making.

HOW / WHY JUSTIFY

Give reasons or evidence to support your opinion or view to show how you arrived at these conclusions.

DISTINCTION COMMAND VERBS

APPRAISE

Consider the plus and minus points and give a reasoned judgement.

ASSESS

Must make a judgement on the importance of something (similar to evaluate)

COMMENT CRITICALLY

Give your view after you have considered all the evidence. In particular decide the importance of all the relevant positive and negative aspects.

CRITICISE

Review a topic or issue objectively and weigh up both plus and minus points before making a decision.

DRAW CONCLUSIONS

Use the evidence you have provided to reach a reasoned judgement.

EVALUATE

Review the information then bring it together to form a conclusion. Give evidence for each of your views or statements.

EVALUATE CRITICALLY

Decide the degree to which a statement is true or the importance or value of something by reviewing the information. Include precise and detailed information and assess possible alternatives, bearing in mind their strengths and weaknesses if they were applied instead.