

# Command Terms

## Assessment Objective 1: Knowledge and understanding of specified content

**Define:** Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity.

**Describe:** Give a detailed account.

**Determine:** Obtain the only possible answer.

**Estimate:** Obtain an approximate value.

**Identify:** Provide an answer from a number of possibilities.

**Outline:** Give a brief account or summary.

**State:** Give a specific name, value or other brief answer without explanation or calculation.

## Assessment Objective 2: Application and analysis of knowledge and understanding

**Analyse:** Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure.

**Classify:** Arrange or order by class or category.

**Distinguish:** Make clear the differences between two or more concepts or items.

**Explain:** Give a detailed account including reasons or causes.

**Suggest:** Propose a solution, hypothesis or other possible answer.

## Assessment Objective 3: Synthesis and evaluation

**Compare:** Give an account of the similarities between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

**Compare and contrast:** Give an account of similarities and differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

**Contrast:** Give an account of the differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

**Discuss:** Offer a considered and balanced review that includes a range of arguments, factors or hypotheses. Opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence.

**Evaluate:** Make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and limitations.

**Examine:** Consider an argument or concept in a way that uncovers the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue.

**Justify:** Give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion.

**To what extent:** Consider the merits or otherwise of an argument or concept. Opinions and conclusions should be presented clearly and supported with empirical evidence and sound argument.

## Assessment Objective 4: Selection, use and application of a variety of appropriate skills and techniques

**Annotate:** Add brief notes to a diagram or graph.

**Construct:** Display information in a diagrammatic or logical form.

**Draw:** Represent by means of a labelled, accurate diagram or graph, using a pencil. A ruler (straight edge) should be used for straight lines. Diagrams should be drawn to scale. Graphs should have points correctly plotted (if appropriate) and joined in a straight line or smooth curve.

**Label:** Add labels to a diagram.