

COMMAND TERMS

(IB Papers)

SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS (250 words)

ANALYSE	Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure.
APPLY	Use an idea, equation, principle, theory or law in relation to a given problem or issue.
DEFINE	Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity
DESCRIBE	Give a detailed account.
DISTINGUISH	Make clear the differences between two or more concepts or items
EXPLAIN	Give a detailed account including reasons or causes.
OUTLINE	Give a brief account or summary.
STATE	Give a specific name, value or other brief answer without explanation or calculation.

ESSAY QUESTIONS (800 words)

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 the 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.
TO WHAT EXTENT	Consider the merits or otherwise of an argument or concept. Opinions and conclusions should be presented clearly and supported with appropriate evidence and sound argument.