

Key Terms

Account for: Explain the process or reason for something being the way it is.

Discuss: Explore the subject by looking at its advantages and disadvantages (i.e. for and against). Attempt to come to some sort of judgement.

Analyse: Explore the main ideas of the subject, show they are important and how they are related.

Distinguish: Explain the difference.

Calculate: Find out using mathematics.

Enumerate: Make a list of the points under discussion.

Comment on: Discuss the subject, explain it and give an opinion on it.

Estimate: Guess the amount or value.

Compare: Show the similarities (but you can also point out the differences).

Explain: Describe, giving reasons and causes.

Complete: Finish off.

Express: Put the ideas into words.

Conclude: Decide after reasoning something out.

Evaluate: Give an opinion by exploring the good and bad points. It's a bit like asking you to assess something. Attempt to support your argument with expert opinion.

Concise: Short and brief.

Factors: The fact or circumstances that contribute to a result.

Contrast: Show the differences ~ compare and contrast questions are very common in exams – they want you to say how something is similar and how it may be different too.

Criticise: Analyse and then make a judgement or give an opinion. You could show both the good and bad points. You could refer to an expert's opinion within this question.

Give reasons for: Use words like **because** in your answer as you will be explaining how or why something is that way.

Define: Give the meaning. This should be short.

Identify: Recognise, prove something as being certain.

Describe: Give a detailed account.

Illustrate: Show by explaining and giving examples.

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