

Analyse: break down the topic into smaller pieces and discuss these in detail.

Argue: develop a case or argument to support a particular position or viewpoint.

Assess/evaluate: make a judgement about something based on evidence.

Comment: give your opinion about something. Discuss and explain the topic.

Compare: find similarities. In some cases you also need to mention differences.

Contrast: find differences. If you are asked to compare and contrast, you need to both highlight similarities and differences.

Criticise: make a judgement about the value or truth of something. Discuss good and bad points.

Define: various meanings -

Describe the nature of something. For example: 'Define the features which distinguish a networked computer system from a standalone set-up.'

State the meaning of something. For example: 'Define the term symbiosis'.

Describe the scope of something. For example: 'Define the role of the medical administrative assistant in private practice.'

Demonstrate/Illustrate: give examples to explain or show your understanding of something.

Describe: give a detailed account of something.

Discuss/Consider: look at different ideas and viewpoints about something.

List: state points concisely, in a logical order.

Examine: have a close, critical look at something.

Explain: various meanings -

Justify something. For example: 'Explain why it is important to wash your hands before handling food'.

Make clear by giving detailed information. For example: 'Explain what is meant by aseptic technique'.

Identify: select relevant details and discuss these. For example: 'Identify the major features of an ergonomically safe work environment'.

Interpret: explain the meaning. You are usually required to make some form of judgement.

Justify: prove, or give reasons/evidence for something. The aim is to convince the reader.

Prove: establish truth of something using evidence.

Relate: show how things are connected or related to each other.

Review: critically examine or assess a subject.

State: briefly and clearly present the main points.

Summarise/outline: find the key points and use these to create an overview of the topic.

Trace: describe development, or events from some point of origin.