

# Study Skills Session



## Command Words

# Learning Intentions and Success Criteria:

- ▶ LI:
  - ▶ By the end of the session you are to have learnt and understand the definition of the command words that will feature in your examinations.
  
  - ▶ SC:
  - ▶ You can understand what the examination question is asking from you
  - ▶ You are able to access the higher order questions
- 



**WHAT IS A COMMAND WORD?**

## ▶ **Understanding command words**

Command words tell you how to answer a specific exam question or complete an assessment task.

- ▶ **Command words** like 'identify' or 'explain' are often used in **exam** questions.
- ▶ These **command words** are instructions for how to answer a question, so it is important you know the meanings of these **words**.
- ▶ For example: Discuss - Write about a topic in detail, taking into account different ideas, and where appropriate different opinions.

Often, during an exam, students understand the key term but get confused about the command word.

This can lead to questions being answered incorrectly

Do you know the difference between a command word and a key term?



# Command Word Vs Key Term

- ▶ 'Explain two ways in which belief in the afterlife influences Christians today'
  - ▶ 'Explain two religious beliefs about adultery'
    - ▶ Can you identify the subject?
    - ▶ Can you spot the command word?
    - ▶ Can you spot the key terms?



# Command Word Vs Key Term

- ▶ **Explain** two ways in which belief in the **afterlife** influences Christians today
  - ▶ **Explain** two religious beliefs about **adultery**
    - ▶ Can you identify the subject?
    - ▶ Can you spot the command word?
    - ▶ Can you spot the key terms?



# Your Task:

- ▶ Have a read of the command words that appear on the next few slides
- ▶ Understand the definition
- ▶ Which ones do you struggle with the most?
- ▶ Revise the definitions



## To Obtain a Grade 4:

Command Word:	What this means:
Create or Produce	Make, invent or construct an item
Describe	Give a clear, straightforward description that includes all the main points and links these together logically
Define	Clearly explain what a particular term means and give an example, if appropriate, to show what you mean
Explain...how/why	Set out in detail the meaning of something, with reasons. It is often helpful to give an example of what you mean. Start with the topic then give the 'how' or 'why'
Identify	Distinguish and state the main features or basic facts relating to a topic
Interpret	Define or explain the meaning of something
Illustrate	Give examples to show what you mean
List	Provide the information required in a list rather than in continuous writing
Outline	Write a clear description that includes all the main points but avoid going into too much detail
Plan	Work out and explain how you would carry out a task or activity
Select / Present	Identify relevant information to support the argument you are making and communicate this in an appropriate way
State	Write a clear and full account

# To Obtain a Grade 6:

Command Word:	What this means:
Analyse	Identify separate factors, say how they are related and how each one relates to the topic
Classify	Sort your information into appropriate categories before presenting or explaining it
Compare and 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 appropriate evidence which support the arguments you are making, in some vocational areas this may also mean giving practical performance
Discuss	Provide a thoughtful and logical argument to support the case you are making
Explain	Provide details and give reasons and/or evidence to clearly support the argument you are making
Implement	Put into practice or operation. You may also have to interpret or justify the effect or result
Interpret	Understand and explain an effect or result
Justify	Give appropriate reasons to support your opinion or views and show how you arrived at these conclusions
Relate/Report	Give a full account of, with reasons
Research	Carry out a full investigation
Specify	Provide full details and descriptions of selected items or activities

## To Obtain a Grade 8 and 9:

Command Word:	What this means:
Analyse	Identify the key factors, show how they are linked and explain the importance and relevance of each
Assess	Give careful consideration to all the factors or events that apply and identify which are the most important and relevant with reasons for your views
Comprehensively Explain	Give a very detailed explanation that covers all the relevant points and give reasons for your views or actions
Comment Critically	Give your view after you have considered all the evidence, particularly the importance of both the relevant positive and negative aspects
Evaluate	Review the information and then bring it together to form a conclusion. Give evidence to support each of your views or statements
Evaluate Critically	Review the information to decide the degree to which something is true, important or valuable. Then assess possible alternatives taking into account their strengths and weaknesses if they were applied instead. Then give a precise and detailed account to explain your opinion
Summarise	Identify review the main, relevant factors and / or arguments so that these are explained in a clear and concise manner

# Test 1:

- ▶ Can you remember the definitions of the following:
  - ▶ Explain
  - ▶ Evaluate
  - ▶ Analyse
  - ▶ Describe
  - ▶ Compare
  - ▶ Go back and check if you were right
- 

# Test 2:

- ▶ DESCRIBE your tutor room
  - ▶ Explain the function of your tutor room
  - ▶ Summarise what happens in your tutor room
  - ▶ Identify possible barriers to your learning
- 

# Your Task:

- ▶ 'How to Revise for GCSE' Booklet needed
- ▶ Study pages 22 and 23
- ▶ Study pages 24 – 27
- ▶ Understand the advice given



# Your Task:

- ▶ 'How to Revise for GCSE' Booklet needed
- ▶ Study page 9
- ▶ Understand the advice given



# PLENARY

- ▶ What have you gained from today's session?
- ▶ Do you understand the difference between a command word and a key term?
- ▶ Revise the command words that you have the most difficulty with

