



Glossary of key words in the formulation of questions

Note: definitions in the glossary are generic and applicable across all courses. Teachers must note that some terms have a course specific meaning that derives directly from the content and the language of the course.

Term	Definition
Account	Account for: state reasons for, report on. Give an account of: narrate a series of events or transactions
Advise	Recommend or inform
Analyse	Identify components and the relationship between them; draw out and relate implications
Apply	Use, utilise, employ in a particular situation
Argue	Make a case, based on appropriate evidence, for and/or against some given point of view
Assess	Make a judgement of value, quality, outcomes, results or size
Calculate	Ascertain/determine from given facts, figures or information
Choose (multiple-choice)	Decide or select the most suitable from a number of different options
Clarify	Make clear or plain
Classify	Arrange or include in classes/categories
Comment on	Make reference to and expand upon
Compare	Show how things are similar and different
Complete	Finish an outlined task
Consider	Reflect on and make a judgement/evaluation
Construct	Make; build; put together items or arguments
Contrast	Show how things are different or opposite
Correlate	Demonstrate a mutual or complementary relationship
Create	Make, invent something
Critically analyse/evaluate	Add a degree or level of accuracy depth, knowledge and understanding, logic, questioning, reflection and quality to analyse/evaluate
Debate	Develop a logical (sometimes persuasive) argument, giving differing views in response to a topic
Deduce	Draw conclusions
Define	State meaning and identify essential qualities
Demonstrate	Show by example

Term	Definition
Derive	Deduce or obtain by reasoning
Describe	Provide characteristics and features
Determine	Decide, find out
Develop	Generate, elaborate or expand to a more advanced state; add detail to
Discuss	Identify issues and provide points for and/or against
Distinguish	Recognise or note/indicate as being distinct or different from; note differences between
Draw (diagrams etc.)	An instruction, as in <i>draw a circle</i> ; sketch in lines or words; derive, as in <i>draw a conclusion</i>
Evaluate	To ascertain the value or amount of; appraise carefully
Examine	Inquire into
Explain	Relate cause and effect; make the relationships between things evident; provide why and/or how
Explore	Investigate, search for or evaluate
Extract	Choose relevant and/or appropriate details
Extrapolate	Infer from what is known
Identify	Recognise and name
Illustrate	Similar to 'explain' (see above), but requires the quoting of specific examples or statistics, or possibly the drawing of maps, graphs, sketches etc.
Interpret	Draw meaning from
Investigate	Plan, search or inquire into; examine in order to obtain the true facts
Judge	Form an opinion, estimate or conclusion; make a determination
Justify	Support an argument or conclusion; give reasons for your statements or comments
Label (and annotate)	Identify by placing a name or word used to describe the object or thing
List	Provide a series of related words, names, numbers or items that are arranged in order, one after the other
Measure	Obtain a metrical unit (e.g. size, dimension, quantity, degree, proportion)
Modify	Alter; change the form or quality
Name	Provide a word or term used to identify an object, person, thing, place etc. (something that is known and distinguished from other people or things)
Outline	Sketch in general terms; indicate the main features of
Predict	Suggest what may happen based on available information

Term	Definition
Prepare (e.g. in Accounting)	Take the necessary action to put something into a state where it is fit for use or action, or for a particular event or purpose
Present (an argument)	Offer or convey something such as an argument or statement to somebody formally; a discussion that offers different points of view on an issue or topic; debate
Propose	Put forward (for example, a point of view, idea, argument, suggestion) for consideration or action
Prove	Use a series of steps or a scientific method to determine a required result
Recall	Present remembered ideas, facts or experiences
Recommend	Provide reasons in favour
Recount	Tell a series of events; narrate in order
Respond to ...	Provide an answer; reply
Select	Choose somebody or something from among several
Show	Give information; illustrate
Sketch	Produce a picture or diagram quickly, roughly; give a brief outline in words
Solve	Determine a solution to a mathematical problem; find an answer to, or explanation of, a problem
State	Express the particulars of an idea or topic
Suggest	Propose a possible action, solution or hypothesis
Summarise	Express, concisely, the relevant details
Synthesise	Put together various elements to make a whole; gather all ideas and combine them into a complex whole; combine all parts