

# Task Verbs Used in Free-Response Questions

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The following **task verbs** are commonly used in the free-response questions:

**Calculate:** Perform mathematical steps to arrive at a final answer, including algebraic expressions, properly substituted numbers, and correct labeling of units and significant figures.

**Construct/Draw:** Create a diagram, graph, representation, or model that illustrates or explains relationships or phenomena. Labels may or may not be required.

**Describe:** Provide relevant characteristic(s) of a specified topic.

**Determine:** Decide or conclude after reasoning, observation, or applying mathematical routines (calculations).

**Evaluate:** Judge or determine the significance or importance of information, or the quality or accuracy of a claim.

**Explain:** Provide information about how or why a relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome occurs, using evidence and/or reasoning to support or qualify a claim.

**Explain “how”** typically requires analyzing the relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome.

**Explain “why”** typically requires analysis of motivations or reasons for the relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome.

**Identify:** Indicate or provide information about a specified topic, without elaboration.

**Justify:** Provide evidence to support, qualify, or defend a claim, and provide reasoning to explain how that evidence supports or qualifies the claim.

**Make a claim:** Make an assertion that is based on evidence or knowledge.

**Predict/Make a prediction:** Predict the causes or effects of a change in, or disruption to, one or more components in a relationship, pattern, process, or system.

**Represent:** Use appropriate graphs, symbols, words, illustrations, and tables of numerical values to describe biological concepts, characteristics, and/or relationships.

**State (the null hypothesis):** Indicate or provide a hypothesis to support or defend a claim about a scientifically testable question related to the experimental variables.

**Support a claim:** Provide reasoning to explain how evidence supports or qualifies a claim