

# 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 (e.g., algebraic expressions or diagrams with properly substituted numbers and correct labeling). Calculate tasks are also phrased with “Find” or interrogatory questions such as “How many?”, “What is?”, “What values?”, “How likely?”, or “How often?”

**Compare:** Provide a description or explanation of similarities and/or differences.

**Construct/Complete:** Represent data in graphical or numerical form.

**Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of representations, distributions, or methods.

**Determine:** Apply an appropriate definition or perform calculations to identify values, intervals, or solutions. Determine tasks are also phrased with interrogatory questions such as “Do the data support?”, “Do the data provide?”, “Is there evidence?”, “Which is better?”, “Does your answer match?”, or “Can it be assumed?”

**Estimate:** Use models or representations to find approximate values for functions.

**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” tasks may also be phrased as “Give a reason for . . .”

**Give a point estimate or interval estimate:** Use models or representations to find approximate values for uncertain figures.

**Give examples:** Provide a specific example that meets given criteria.

**Identify/Indicate/Circle:** Indicate or provide information about a specified topic in words or by circling, shading, or marking given information, without elaboration or explanation. Also phrased as “What is?” or “Which?”

**Interpret:** Describe the connection between a mathematical expression, representation, or solution and its meaning within the realistic context of a problem, sometimes including consideration of units.

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

**Verify:** Confirm that the conditions of a particular definition, distribution, or inference method are met in order to verify that it is applicable in a given situation. Verify tasks may also be phrased as “Have the conditions been met?” or “Can it be assumed?”