

# 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. Showing work is required.

**Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic.

**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; whereas, explain “why” typically requires analysis of motivations or reasons for the relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome. Also phrased as “give one reason.”

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

**Justify:** Provide evidence to support, qualify, or defend a claim and/or 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.

**Propose a solution:** Provide a proposed solution to a problem based on evidence or knowledge.