

COSTA'S Signal Words & Definitions

LEVEL ONE:

- The answer can be found in the text (either directly or indirectly).
- Very concrete and pertains only to the text.
- Asks for facts about what has been heard or read.
- Information is recalled in the exact manner/form it was heard.

Examples and signal words:

- Define - to set forth the meaning of
- Describe - to represent or give an account in words
- Identify - to establish the identity of
- List - a simple series of words or numbers
- Name - to mention or identify by name
- Observe - to see or sense esp. through careful attention
- Recite - to repeat verbatim
- Scan - to examine closely

LEVEL TWO:

- The answer can be inferred from the text.
- Although more abstract than a Level One question, deals only with the text.
- Information can be broken down into parts.
- Involves examining in detail, analyzing motives or causes, making inferences, finding information to support generalizations or decision making.
- Questions combine information in a new way.

Examples and signal words:

- Analyze - to make an analysis of , an examination of a thing to know its parts
- Compare - to examine for likenesses and differences
- Contrast - to show differences when compared
- Group - to cluster
- Infer - to derive as a conclusion from facts or premises
- Sequence - chronological order of events
- Synthesize - the combination of parts or elements into a whole

LEVEL THREE:

- The answer goes beyond the text.
- Is abstract and does not pertain to the text
- Ask that judgements be made from information
- Gives opinions about issues, judges the validity of ideas or other products and justifies opinions and ideas

Examples and signal words:

- Apply - to put to practical use
- Evaluate - appraise, value
- Hypothesize - to adopt as an hypothesis/assumption
- Imagine - to form a mental picture of something not present; guess
- Judge - to form an estimate or evaluation about something. deduce
- Predict - to declare in advance
- Speculate - to think or wonder about a subject