GCSE Music – Edexcel Specification

Appendix 5: Command word taxonomy

The following words are the command words that will appear in examination papers, and their definitions.

Command word	Definition
State, give, name, identify, list	Give one or more points. Recall or find factual information
Complete	Dictation questions, for example, to fill in blanks on a score
Describe	Give points which may or may not be linked When linked there will be a correct order
Explain	Give points that are linked to a justification or extension
Compare	Make points about the similarities and differences Make relative judgements
Analyse	Examine, dissect musical elements in detail Focus on individual musical elements and how they combine to create an effect/achieve a purpose
Evaluate	Make judgements against parameters Draw conclusions