

ESS Command Terms

Analyze: Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure.

Annotate: Add brief notes to a diagram or graph

Apply: Use an idea, equation, principle, theory or law in relation to a given problem or issue

Calculate: Obtain a numerical answer showing the relevant stages of working.

Comment: Give a judgment based on a given statement or result of a calculation.

Compare and contrast: Give an account of similarities and differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

Construct: Display information in a diagrammatic or logical form.

Deduce: Reach a conclusion from the information given.

Define: Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity

Demonstrate: Make clear by reasoning or evidence, illustrating with examples or practical application.

Derive: Manipulate a mathematical relationship to give a new equation or relationship.

Describe: give a detailed account.

Design: Produce a plan, simulation or model.

Determine: Obtain the only possible answer.

Discuss: Offer a considered and balanced review that includes a range of arguments, factors or hypotheses. Opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence.

Distinguish: Make clear the differences between two or more concepts or items.

Draw: Represent by means of a labeled, accurate diagram or graph, using a pencil. A ruler (straight edge) should be used for straight lines. Diagrams should be drawn to scale. Graphs should have points correctly plotted (if appropriate) and joined in a straight line or smooth curve.

Estimate: Obtain an approximate value.

Evaluate: Make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and limitations.

Explain: Give a detailed account, including reasons or causes.

Examine: Consider an argument or concept in a way that uncovers the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue.

Identify: Provide an answer from a number of possibilities.

Interpret: Use knowledge and understanding to recognize trends and draw conclusions from given information.

Justify: Provide evidence to support or defend a choice, decision, strategy or course of action.

Label: Add labels to a diagram.

List: Give a sequence of brief answers with no explanation.

Measure: Obtain a value for a quantity

Outline: Give a brief account or summary.

Predict: Give an expected result.

Sketch: Represent by means of a diagram or graph (labeled as appropriate). The sketch should give a general idea of the required shape or relationship, and should include relevant features.

State: Give a specific name, value or other brief answer without explanation or calculation.

Suggest: Propose a solution, hypothesis or other possible answer.

To what extent: Consider the merits or otherwise of an argument or concept. Opinions and conclusions should be presented clearly and supported with appropriate evidence and sound argument.