

Command terms for world religions

Command terms with definitions

Students should be familiar with the following key terms and phrases used in examination questions, which are to be understood as described below. Although these terms will be used frequently in examination questions, other terms may be used to direct students to present an argument in a specific way.

The assessment objectives (AOs) listed below are those referred to in the world religions syllabus.

Command term	Assessment objective level	Definition
Analyze	AO2	Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure.
Comment	AO1	Give a judgment based on a given statement or result of a calculation.
Compare	AO3	Give an account of the similarities between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.
Compare and contrast		AO3 Give an account of similarities and differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.
Contrast	AO3	Give an account of the differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.
Deduce	AO2	Reach a conclusion from the information given.

Define	AO1	Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity.
Describe	AO1	Give a detailed account.
Discuss	AO3	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	AO2	Make clear the differences between two or more concepts or items.
Evaluate	AO3	Make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and limitations.
Examine	AO3	Consider an argument or concept in a way that uncovers the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue.
Explain	AO2	Give a detailed account including reasons or causes.
Identify	AO1	Provide an answer from a number of possibilities.
Investigate	AO2	Observe, study, or make a detailed and systematic examination, in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.
Justify	AO3	Give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion.
Outline	AO1	Give a brief account or summary.
To what extent	AO3	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.