

Command Words	Potential definition
Assess	Weigh up whether a statement is true.
Calculate	Mathematically work out the value of something.
Compare	Describe the similarities and differences of something.
Define	State or describe exactly the meaning of.
Describe	Set out the characteristics.
Discuss	Bring forward the important points of or set out both sides of an argument/issue/element of content, for and against.
Evaluate	Give your verdict after providing evidence which both agrees with and contradicts an argument.
Examine	Look in close detail and establish the key facts and important issues.
Explain	Set out the causes of something and/or the factors which influence it.
Identify	Select a piece/s of information.
Justify	Give valid reasons and evidence to support an answer.
Make a prediction	Look at evidence provided to make a judgement about the future.
Outline	A brief written description / account of something.
Propose	To suggest a course of action or intention.
State	Provide a specific piece of information (e.g. name or value) without explanation.
Suggest	Offer an opinion for a particular course of action on an event or issue.
To what extent do you agree	How much you agree with a statement based on the evidence in argument.

On the following page are some comments from the Examiners – which of these would help you most in boosting your current performance?

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/539424-command-words.pdf>

Advice from our Principal Examiners

*"In many cases, candidates provided **explanations** where **descriptions** would suffice, or visa-versa, while the command word '**examine**' requires comments **beyond description and explanation.**"*

GCSE Geography A, J383, examiners' report June 2018

*"The **best answers** were those that **identified the command words** in the questions, such as **assess** and **evaluate**, and **then linked their answer to those words.**"*

GCSE Geography B, J384, examiners' report June 2018

*"To reach **Level 3**, it is best to take **one idea** and **develop it as fully as possible**, rather than try to explain three or four ideas much more basically, ending up with a list like answer."*

GCSE Geography B, J384, examiners' report June 2018

*"There is also a need for candidates to come up with **more ideas** or **extend the ideas** that they have identified to **gain all the marks** in a 3 or 4 mark question."*

GCSE Geography B, J384, examiners' report June 2018

Note, dependent on the command word, candidates may need to **develop their ideas**, e.g. '**explain**'.