

Chemistry Command words



Command words appear in every exam question. They are instructions telling you what you should include in your answer.

Task: complete the command word table below to help you gain a clearer understanding of the meaning of these words.

<i>Command word</i>	<i>Subject specific meaning</i>	<i>Create a exam style question which incorporates the command word</i>
Calculate	Work out the value of something	Calculate the percentage of mass of iron in iron oxide.
Evaluate		
explain		
Give		
Identify		
Justify		
Label		
Show		
Sketch		
State		
Suggest		

Chemistry Command words



<i>Command word</i>	<i>Subject specific meaning</i>	<i>Create a exam style question which incorporates the command word</i>
Draw		
Analyse		
Estimate		
Comment		
Compare		
Complete		
Deduce		
Define		
Design		

Command words by levels of complexity – Student task



Task: consider which categories in the table below the words on the right should go in.

Knowledge and understanding	Application	Analysis	Evaluation

- | | |
|--|---|
| Why
Give
Explain
Assess
Identify
What is meant by
Apply
Calculate
Examine
Give an example
Using examples
With reference to the evidence
How
What
Show how
Discuss
Name
Using
Outline
Draw on your knowledge
State
Would you agree
Using your knowledge
What trends
Demonstrate
List | Analyse
Justify
Discuss
What factors
Identify
Organise
Contrast
Advise
Evaluate
Consider
Explain why
To what extent
Assess the extent
Weigh up
Suggest
calculate
Predict
Do you think
How far
Examine
Show how
Evaluate the suggestion
Critically assess
Assess the relative importance
Define
Compare
Describe
Which
Explain |
|--|---|

Command words by levels of complexity



Knowledge and understanding	Application	Analysis	Evaluation
Define Describe Explain Give List Identify Outline State What is meant by Name	Apply Calculate Demonstrate Examine Give an example Using examples With reference to the evidence How Show how Why Which Using Draw on your knowledge Using your knowledge What trends Explain	Analyse Calculate Compare Contrast Discuss Explain Show how Which What factors Examine Identify Organise What	Advise Evaluate Assess Consider Discuss Explain why To what extent Assess the extent Weigh up Suggest Justify Predict Do you think How far Would you agree Why Evaluate the suggestion Critically assess Assess the relative importance

Command word meanings – Student task



Task: write down the meanings of the command words.

Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
Analyse		Evaluate	
Annotate		Explain	
Apply		Explore	
Argue		Give	
Assess		Identify	
Calculate		Justify	
Comment		Label	
Compare		List	
Consider		Name	
Contrast		Outline	
Criticise		Predict	
Debate		Relate	
Define		Show	
Design		Sketch	
Determine		State	
Draw		Suggest	
Estimate			

Command word meanings



Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
Analyse	Separate information into components and identify their characteristics	Evaluate	Judge from available evidence
Annotate	Add notation or labelling to a graph, diagram or other drawing	Explain	Give reasons
Apply	Put into effect in a recognised way	Explore	Investigate without preconceptions about the outcome
Argue	Present a reasoned case	Give	Produce an answer from recall or from given information
Assess	Make an informed judgement	Identify	Name or otherwise characterise
Calculate	Work out the value of something	Justify	Support a case with evidence
Comment	Present an informed opinion	Label	Provide appropriate names on a diagram
Compare	Identify similarities and/ or differences	List	List a name of features or points without further elaboration
Consider	Finish a task by adding to given information	Name	Identify using a recognised technical term
Contrast	Identify differences	Outline	Set out main characteristics
Criticise	Access worth against explicit expectations	Predict	Give a plausible outcome
Debate	Present different perspectives on an issue	Relate	Give a technical term or its equivalent
Define	Specify meaning	Show	Provide structured evidence to reach a conclusion
Design	Set out something will be done	Sketch	Draw approximately
Determine	Use given data or information to obtain an answer	State	Express in clear terms
Draw	Produce a diagram	Suggest	Present a possible case
Estimate	Assign an approximate value		