

Religious Studies 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>
<i>Explain</i>	<i>Give reasons</i>	Explain briefly how discrimination is different from prejudice.
Evaluate		
Discuss		
Give		
Why		
Explain different attitudes to...		
Explain how X may influence Y		
Describe		
What is meant...		
Name		
Refer		

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.

<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
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



<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>	<i>Word</i>	<i>Meaning</i>
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		