

Command Words

(Learning Outcome Statements)

Command Words

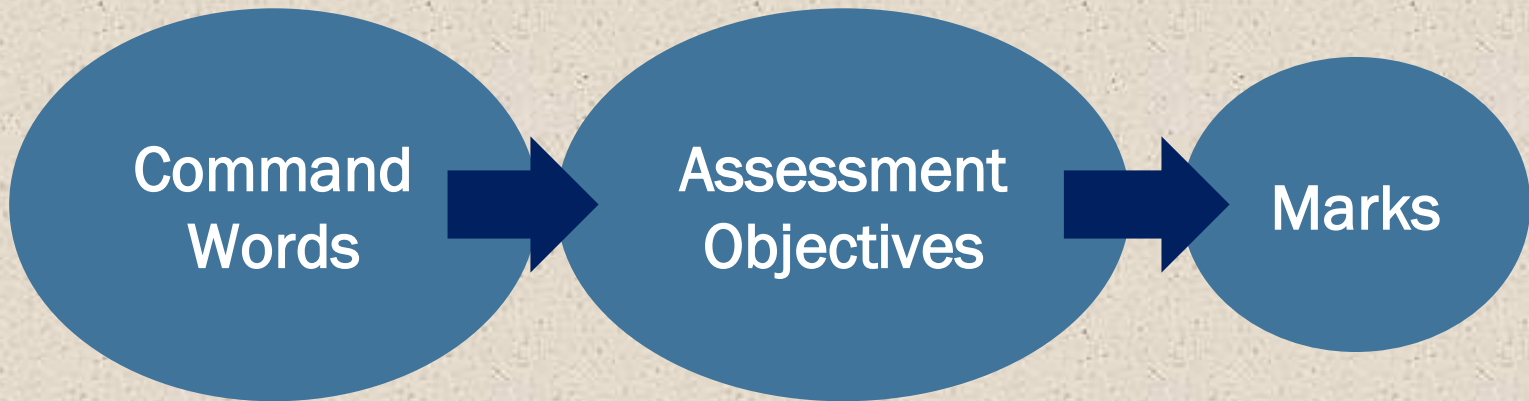
Command Words are the guides in the question which identify which Assessment Objective (AO) is being targeted by that question.

Command Word Importance

When the questions are written, Command Words are decided on carefully and the word order is chosen to make it clear what the examiner is looking for in the answer.

Assessment Objectives

Command Words are associated with specific Assessment Objectives.



Command Words

Command words are always active verbs (action words).



Supporting Candidates

It pays to have some idea of what Command Words mean so we can support candidates by having in mind which skill they should be focusing on in the question.

Some Command Words

Assess

Justify

Contrast

Discuss

Outline

Evaluate

Explain

Describe

Suggest

Consider

Compare

Define

Identify

Examine

Illustrate

JCQ Regulations 2022/23:

5.11.5 A Language Modifier
must have:

an understanding of the impact
of command words and an
examiner's expectations of a
candidate's answer.

JCQ Regulations 2022/23:

5.11.10 The rules – the use of a Language Modifier: must take great care if modifying ‘command’ words in questions, such as describe, explain and suggest, as changing such words may change the nature of the question and disadvantage the candidate. In most cases command words should **not** be modified;

JCQ Regulations 2022/23:

5.11.10 A copy of the question paper should be provided to the Language Modifier to enable him/her to:

- identify and highlight technical or subject-specific terms and command words which cannot be modified;

Rigour

- 1. Knowledge** define, duplicate, label, list, memorise, name, recognise, relate, recall, repeat, reproduce, state.
- 2. Comprehension** classify, describe, explain, express, identify, indicate, locate, recognise, report, review.
- 3. Application** apply, choose, demonstrate, dramatise, employ, illustrate, practice, schedule, sketch, solve, use, write.
- 4. Analysis** analyse, appraise, calculate, categorise, compare, contrast, criticise, differentiate, discriminate, distinguish, examine.
- 5. Synthesis** arrange, assemble, collect, compose, construct, create, design, develop, formulate, manage, organise, plan, propose.
- 6. Evaluation** appraise, argue, assess, attach, choose, compare, defend, estimate, judge, predict, rate, select, support, value.