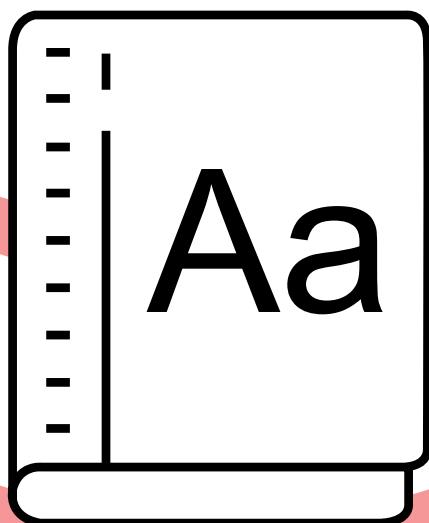


Exam Terminology Dictionary

All the terms you need to know



Visit www.worksheetcloud.com for 100's of practice exams and worksheets!

Introduction

Test and exam questions use specific terminology that require a specific response from you. Learners often lose marks because they misinterpret what the question is asking of them.

Terms to Learn

Learn the terms below and the response they require before you write your next test.

Annotate

To add labels or comments to an illustration or text.

Comment on

To offer a commentary or discussion of something. This could be in the form of an explanation.

Compare

To look at what something has in common with something else. You can add some concessions too, by looking at differences, using transitional words like, “on the other hand ...: or “while these qualities are in common, there is a slight difference when it comes to ...”.

Content

What the passage is about.

Contrast

Examining the key differences between things; in what ways they are opposite. Your answer must talk about both things and use a transitional word like “but”.

Criticise

This means to weigh up the good and bad qualities of something. A critical look at an issue involves weighing up advantages and disadvantages, not for the purpose of attacking but rather to evaluate.

Define

To provide a definition or precise meaning of a term or terms.

Describe

A description is a thorough depiction of something, including precise and logical details.

Diagram

This is an illustration of some sort, like a sketch, chart, graph, flow-chart. Usually, there is a title and short explanation / key notes.

Discuss

A discussion involves “talking about” - whether it is a verbal or written conversation. The idea here, is to include relevant evidence to support or refute a particular thesis or key topic.

Enumerate

This word sounds like “numerate” or number knowledge. It means, simply to identify and create a numbered list.

Evaluate

To assess or weigh up the validity of a statement or argument. Usually, you would include both sides of the argument, and come to a reasoned conclusion.

Explain

Make very clear statements, or give reasons based on the passage.

Identify

Name or classify something.

Illustrate

To demonstrate or make clear by using examples.

Interpret

Look at particular realities and comment on what they mean, almost like translating.

Justify

To provide evidence or proof to support your viewpoint.

List

To create a list of points, numbered or in bulleted form, usually, one below the other.

Outline

To give the framework or overall idea. It is usually stated in broad, generalised terms.

Paraphrase

To re-write, using your own words.

Prove / substantiate

Except for Mathematics and Science, this involves finding evidence or logical, supporting facts to defend a statement.

Quote

Using quotation marks, write down the exact words from the passage.

Relate

To show the connection between things, telling how one causes or is like another. To find links or causal relationships between concepts.

Review

To give some criticism, as you look over a situation, summing up the key elements and adding a motivated opinion.

State

To give a blunt and brief sentence / point with no examples.

Summarise

To give a shortened version of the text.

Tabulate

To present in the form of a table.

Trace

To look at how things occurred throughout a text / period of time. You would look at where something originated, how things developed and how they ended.

The Complete Online Exam Revision Platform.



WorksheetCloud
Online & Printable School Worksheets