

Educational Assignment Terms Explanation

Analyse	Break an issue into its constituent parts. Look in depth at each part using supporting arguments and evidence for and against as well as how these interrelate to one another.
Apply	Relevant to a situation or context
Assess	Weigh up to what extent something is true. Persuade the reader of your argument by citing relevant research but also remember to point out any flaws and counter-arguments as well. Conclude by stating clearly how far you are in agreement with the original proposition.
Appraise	Estimate the quality.
Break-down	Analyse into components. A detailed analysis.
Carry out	To execute a given task.
Clarify	Literally make something clearer and, where appropriate, simplify it.
Comment upon	Pick out the main points on a subject and give your opinion, reinforcing your point of view using logic and reference to relevant evidence, including any wider reading you have done.
Compare	Identify the similarities and differences between two or more phenomena. Say if any of the shared similarities or differences are more important than others. 'Compare' and 'contrast' will often feature together in an essay question.
Compile	Collect material
Consider	Say what you think and have observed about something. Back up your comments using appropriate evidence from external sources, or your own experience. Include any views which are contrary to your own and how they relate to what you originally thought.
Contrast	Similar to compare but concentrate on the dissimilarities between two or more phenomena, or what sets them apart. Point out any differences which are particularly significant.
Critically appraise	Estimate the quality and come to a final conclusion basing your decision on what you judge to be the most important factors and justify how you have made your choice.
Critically evaluate	Give your verdict as to what extent a statement or findings within a piece of research are true, or to what extent you agree with them. Provide evidence taken from a wide range of sources which both agree with <i>and</i> contradict an argument. Come to a final conclusion, basing your decision on what you judge to be the most important factors and justify how you have made your choice. <i>See evaluate.</i>
Critically review	Look thoroughly into a subject. This should be a critical assessment and not merely descriptive. Come to a final conclusion, basing your decision on what you judge to be the most important factors and justify how you have made

	your choice.
Define	To give in precise terms the meaning of something. Bring to attention any problems posed with the definition and different interpretations that may exist.
Demonstrate	Show how/evidence, with examples to illustrate.
Describe	Provide a detailed explanation as to how and why something happens.
Devise	Think out or contrive a methodology
Discuss	Essentially this is a written debate where you are using your skill at reasoning, backed up by carefully selected evidence to make a case for and against an argument, or point out the advantages and disadvantages, strengths and weaknesses, pro's and con's of a given context. Remember to arrive at a conclusion.
Distinguish	Point out the difference(s).
Elaborate	To give in more detail, provide more information on.
Evaluate	Identify the strengths and weaknesses, pro's and con's, advantages /disadvantages of an issue in a given context. Remember to arrive at a conclusion. <i>See critically evaluate.</i>
Examine	Look in close detail and establish the key facts and important issues surrounding a topic. This should be a critical evaluation and you should try and offer reasons as to why the facts and issues you have identified are the most important, as well as explain the different ways they could be construed.
Explain	Clarify a topic by giving a detailed account as to how and why it occurs, or what is meant by the use of this term in a particular context. Your writing should have clarity so that complex procedures or sequences of events can be understood defining key terms where appropriate, and be substantiated with relevant research.
Explore	Adopt a questioning approach and consider a variety of different viewpoints. Where possible reconcile opposing views by presenting a final line of argument.
Extrapolate	Deduce from known data further facts, terms etc
Formulate	Express clearly and precisely
Generate	Bring into existence.
Give an account of	Means give a detailed description of something. Not to be confused with 'account for' which asks you not only what, but why something happened.
Identify	Determine what are the key points to be addressed and implications thereof.
Illustrate	A similar instruction to 'explain' whereby you are asked to show the workings of something, making use of definite examples and statistics if appropriate to add weight to your explanation.
Interpret	Demonstrate your understanding of an issue or topic, explain the meaning.
Investigate	Examine or inquire into.
List	A number of connected items presented consecutively typically one below the other.
Judge	Conclude, consider or suppose

Justify	Make a case by providing a body of evidence to support your ideas and points of view. In order to present a balanced argument, consider opinions which may run contrary to your own before stating your conclusion.
Modify	Make practical changes, make different.
Outline	Convey the main or essential points only placing emphasis on global structures and interrelationships rather than minute detail.
Paraphrase	Express the meaning of a passage in other words
Plan	Design or arrange beforehand.
Predict	Make a statement about the future
Prepare	Get it ready, give it consideration
Prescribe	Lay down authoritatively.
Prioritised list	A number of connected items presented consecutively typically one below the other and where the list indicates the priority or importance of the factors
Produce	Bring forward for consideration, inspection
Propose	Put forward for consideration
Recommend	Advise on subject matter.
Review	Look thoroughly into a subject. This should be a critical assessment and not merely descriptive.
Show how	Present, in a logical order, and with reference to relevant evidence the stages and combination of factors that give rise to something.
Specify	State expressly or include as specification
State	To specify in clear terms the key aspects pertaining to a topic without being overly descriptive. Refer to evidence and examples where appropriate.
Summarise	Give a condensed version drawing out the main facts and omit superfluous information. Brief or general examples will normally suffice for this kind of answer.
To what extent	Evokes a similar response to questions containing ' <i>How far...</i> '. This type of question calls for a thorough assessment of the evidence in presenting your argument. Explore alternative explanations where they exist.
Verify	To show to be true.