

**VOCABULARY
KEY
INSTRUCTION
WORDLIST**

About this resource

These are words used in many exam style questions across several subjects. Limit study of these words to 3–5 a week to ensure they are committed to memory, revisit them regularly to ensure they are consolidated.

They could be used in a variety of ways including:

- word-walls
- spelling key words
- matching the word to the definition
- whole school focus.

Knowing how to approach a question is key to accuracy.

Analyse	Look in detail at all elements of the subject of the question. Find evidence for and against.	Analyse this aspect for representations of nature.
Assess	Work up to what extent something is true. Draw conclusions based on evidence.	Assess the extent of economic growth in Post War Germany.
Clarify	Make something clearer and, where appropriate, simplify it.	Clarify the liberal party's stance on...
Compare	Identify the similarities and differences between two or more things. Compare and contrast will often feature together in an exam question.	Compare the poems of Carol Ann Duffy and Gillian Triggs on their interpretations of love.
Contrast	Similar to compare but concentrate just on the differences between two or more subjects.	Contrast Churchill's presidency with that of Obama's.
Critically evaluate	Give your verdict as to what extent a statement or finding within a piece of research is true, or to what extent you agree with them. Provide evidence taken from a wide range of sources which both agree with and contradict an argument.	Churchill is the greatest Briton of all time. Critically evaluate this statement.
Define	To give in precise terms the meaning of something.	Define presidential representation.
Demonstrate	Show how or give an explanation of how something works, with examples to illustrate.	Demonstrate how to remove a tyre from a car.
Describe	Provide a detailed explanation as to how and why something happens.	Describe the rain cycle.
Discuss	This is a written debate where you are using your skills at reasoning, backed up by carefully selected evidence to make a case for and against an argument, or point out the advantages and disadvantages of a given context.	Discuss how important the industrial revolution was in the UK's history.

Examine	Look in close detail and establish the key facts and important issues surrounding a topic.	Examine the causes of the Vietnam war.
Give an account of	Give a detailed description of something.	Give an account of Elizabeth I's reign.
Identify	Determine what are the key points to be addressed.	Identify the events leading up to the Topolobampo.
Illustrate	Show the workings of something, making use of definite examples and statistics if appropriate to add weight to your explanation.	Illustrate a river from source to sea.
Outline	Explain the main points with the focus being on the overview and considerations of the wider context.	Outline the key features of a volcano.
Review	Look thoroughly into a subject. This should be a critical assessment and not merely descriptive.	Review Shweh's and Altemeyer's studies on authoritarianism for ecological stability.
State	Explain in clear and concise terms the main points of a subject/topic.	State the argument for women's rights.
Summarise	Give a condensed version drawing out the main facts and omit unnecessary information.	Summarise the main points of World War Two.
To what extent	Examine a similar response to questions containing 'how far...'. This type of question asks for a thorough assessment of the evidence in presenting your argument.	To what extent does Lucretius use nature in his poems?

Do not print this page. The resource starts on page 2.

Analyse	Look in detail at all elements of the subject of the question. Find evidence for and against.	Analyse this extract for representations of nature.
Assess	Weigh up to what extent something is true. Draw conclusions based on evidence.	Assess the extent of economic growth in Post War Germany.
Clarify	Make something clearer and, where appropriate, simplify it.	Clarify the liberal party's stance on...
Compare	Identify the similarities and differences between two or more things. 'Compare' and 'contrast' will often feature together in an essay question.	Compare the poems of Carol Churchill and Sylvia Plath on their interpretations of love.
Contrast	Similar to compare but concentrate just on the differences between two or more subjects.	Contrast Trump's presidency with that of Obama's.
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 and contradict an argument.	Churchill is the greatest Briton of all time. Critically evaluate this statement.
Define	To give in precise terms the meaning of something.	Define proportional representation.
Demonstrate	Show how or give an explanation of how something works, with examples to illustrate.	Demonstrate how to remove a tyre from a car.
Describe	Provide a detailed explanation as to how and why something happens.	Describe the rain cycle.
Discuss	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 of a given context.	Discuss how important the industrial revolution was in the UK's history.

Examine	Look in close detail and establish the key facts and important issues surrounding a topic.	Examine the causes of the Vietnam war.
Give an account of	Give a detailed description of something.	Give an account of Elizabeth I reign.
Identify	Determine what are the key points to be addressed.	Identify the events leading up to the Tolpuddle Martyrs.
Illustrate	Show the workings of something, making use of definite examples and statistics if appropriate to add weight to your explanation.	Illustrate a river from source to sea.
Outline	Explain the main points with the focus being on the overview and considerations of the wider context.	Outline the key features of a volcano.
Review	Look thoroughly into a subject. This should be a critical assessment and not merely descriptive.	Review Bowlby's and Ainsworth's studies on attachment for ecological validity.
State	Explain in clear and concise terms the main points of a subject/text.	State the argument for women's rights.
Summarise	Give a condensed version drawing out the main facts and omit unnecessary information.	Summarise the main points of World War Two.
To what extent	Evokes a similar response to questions containing 'How far...'. This type of question calls for a thorough assessment of the evidence in presenting your argument.	To what extent does Larkin use nature in his poems?