

## Common Instruction Words

**Analyse** – To analyse, identify and explain the main parts or ideas of a subject and examine or interpret the connections between them.

**Compare and Contrast** – Examine the qualities and characteristics of a subject and emphasising the similarities (compare) and differences (contrast).

**Define** - When you define something you show, describe, or state clearly what it is and what it is like, you can also say what its limits are.

**Describe** - Give an account of characteristics, properties or qualities of a subject.

**Discuss** - Consider your subject from different points of view. Examine, analyse and present considerations for and against the problem or statement. In science essays, *discuss* often means give a comprehensive, objective evaluation or account of a subject\*.

**Evaluate** – To evaluate, decide on your subject’s significance, value, or quality after carefully studying its good and bad features.

**Explain** - Give reasons for a particular event or situation. State the ‘how’ and ‘why’, account for causes, results and implications. Use examples to support your explanation.

**Interpret** - To interpret, you should translate, solve, give examples, or comment upon the subject and evaluate it in terms of your judgement or reaction.

**Justify** – To justify, you should provide the reasons and grounds for the conclusions you draw from the statement. Present your evidence in a form that will convince your reader.

**Outline** – To outline, you give a general overview of ideas, principles, or theories.

**Prove** – To prove a statement, experiment or theory, you must confirm or test it. Evaluate the material and present experimental evidence and/or logical reasoning.

**Relate** - To relate two things, you should state or claim the connection or link between them.

**Review** - To critically examine, analyse and comment on the major points of a subject.