

# Appendix 10 Examination and Essay Questions: Glossary

Research has shown that, in general, there tend to be four main tasks that are required of students when they write essays in examinations. These are to show familiarity with:

- 1 a concept
- 2 the relations between/among concepts
- 3 a process
- 4 argumentation

Below are the most frequently used question types together with their possible meanings. It is possible to cross-reference some of the words for additional explanations e.g. *enumerate* has the meaning 'name and list'; *list* is then explained as 'put in sequence; catalogue; mention.'

<i>question word</i>	<i>meaning</i>	<i>question word</i>	<i>meaning</i>
account for	give reasons for; explain	identify	point out and describe
give an account of.	describe	indicate	show, explain
analyse	divide, describe, discuss, examine, explain	infer	conclude something from facts or reasoning
assess	decide the importance and give reasons	illustrate	give examples that support your answer
calculate	estimate; determine; weigh reasons carefully	justify	give good reasons for; explain satisfactorily
characterise	describe	list	put in sequence; catalogue; mention
classify	arrange into groups	mention	describe briefly
comment on	explain the importance of	name	identify
compare	describe similarities	outline	give a short description of the main points
consider	think about carefully	prove	show that something is true or certain; provide strong evidence (and examples) for
contrast	describe differences	quantify	express or measure the amount or quantity of
criticise	discuss and point out faults	relate	give an account of
deduce	conclude; infer	show	indicate; give evidence of; make clear; demonstrate, illustrate
define	state precisely the meaning of; explain	speculate	form an opinion without having complete knowledge; suggest
demonstrate	show clearly by giving proof or evidence	suggest	mention as a possibility; state as an idea for consideration; propose
describe	say what something is like	state	express carefully, fully and clearly
determine	find out something; calculate	summarise	give the main points of
differentiate between	show how something is different	trace	outline and describe
discuss	consider something from different points of view, and then give your own opinion	verify	make sure that something is accurate or true; check
distinguish between	describe the difference between		
elaborate	discuss in detail, with reasons and examples		
elucidate	explain and make clear		
enumerate	name and list, and explain		
estimate	calculate; judge; predict		
evaluate	assess and explain		
examine	look at carefully; consider		
explain	make clear; give reasons for		
express	show, describe		