

AQA GCSE BIOLOGY: COMMAND TERMS

There are 9 possible command terms which AQA will use in your GCSE exam. They tell you what to do! Always highlight the command term to remind yourself what you are being asked to do.

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| <p><u>Calculate</u> Students should use numbers given in the question to work out the answer.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • show their working, • give the units | <p><u>Compare</u> This requires the student to describe the similarities and/or differences between things, not just write about one. If students are asked to 'compare x with y' they need to write down something about x compared to y using comparative words such as <i>better, more than, less than, quicker, more expensive, on the other hand</i></p> | <p><u>Complete</u> answers should be written in the space provided, e.g. on a diagram, in spaces in a sentence or in a table</p> |
| <p><u>Describe</u> Students may be asked to recall some facts, events or a process in an accurate way. For example a trend in some data.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Describe the <u>full</u> line/curve on a graph, e.g. it increased, then reached a peak, then decreased (imagine you were trying to describe the shape of the graph to someone who'd never seen it) • Use words like quickly, slowly, increase and decrease • Quote some <u>numbers</u>, e.g. it reached a peak at 3 minutes. | <p><u>Evaluate</u> Student should use the information supplied as well as their knowledge and understanding to consider evidence for and against. Write down some of the points <u>for</u> and <u>against</u> both methods to develop an argument. A mark may also be available for a clear and <u>justified conclusion</u></p> | <p><u>Explain</u> Students should say <u>WHY</u> something is happening. You will usually need to use the word <u>BECAUSE</u></p> |
| <p><u>State, give, name, write down</u> Only a short answer is required, not an explanation or a description. Often it can be answered with a single word, phrase or sentence</p> | <p><u>Suggest</u> This term is used in questions where students need to apply their knowledge and understanding to a new situation. Often there may be more than one correct answer as students are expected to base their answers on scientific knowledge and/or principles. Useful words to use are: <i>may, might, could, I think that</i></p> | <p><u>Use the information in the passage / diagram / graph / table to</u> The answer <u>must</u> be based on the information given in the question. Unless the information given in the question is used, no marks can be given.</p> |