

## IB: Command Terms

- Define:** Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase or physical quantity.
- Draw:** Represent by means of pencil lines.
- Label:** Add labels to a diagram.
- List:** Give a sequence of names or other brief answer with no explanation.
- Measure:** Find a value for a quantity.
- State:** Give a specific name, value or other brief answer without explanation or calculation.
- Annotate:** Add brief notes to a diagram or graph.
- Apply:** Use an idea, equation, principle, theory or law in a new situation.
- Calculation:** Find a numerical answer showing the relevant stage in the working (unless instructed not to do so).
- Describe:** Give a detailed account.
- Distinguish:** Give the difference between two or more different items.
- Estimate:** Find an approximate value for an unknown quantity.
- Identify:** Find an answer from a given number of possibilities.
- Outline:** Give a brief account or summary
- Analyse:** Interpret data to reach conclusion
- Comment:** Give a judgment based on a given statement or result of a calculation.
- Compare:** Give an account of similarities and differences between two (or more) items, referring to both (all) of them throughout.
- Construct:** Represent or develop in graphical form.
- Deduce:** Reach a conclusion from the information given.
- Derive:** Manipulate a mathematical relationship(s) to give a new equation or relationship.
- Design:** Produce a plan, simulation or model.
- Determine:** Find the only possible answer.
- Discuss:** Give an account including, where possible, a range of arguments for and against the relative importance of various factors, or comparisons of alternative hypotheses.
- Evaluate:** Assess the implication and limitations.
- Explain:** Give a detailed account of causes, reasons or mechanisms.
- Predict:** Give an expected result.
- Show:** Give the steps in a calculation or derivation.
- Sketch:** Represent by means of graph showing a line and labeled but unscaled axes but with important features (for example, intercept) clearly indicated.
- Solve:** Obtain an answer using algebraic and/or numerical methods.
- Suggest:** Propose a hypothesis or other possible answer.