

TASK WORDS	MEANINGS
account for	Give reasons for; explain why something happens
analyse	Examine closely; examine something in terms of its parts and how they are related to each other
argue	Present a case for and/or against something
assess	Decide the value of something
comment on	Identify and write about main issues, giving your reasons your reactions based upon what you have read or heard in lectures. Avoid purely personal opinion.
compare	Discuss two or more things in terms of their similarities and differences
contrast	Discuss two or more things, emphasising their differences, give reasons why
critically evaluate	Weigh arguments for and against something, assessing the strength of the evidence on both sides. Use criteria to guide your assessment of which opinions, theories, models or items are preferable
criticise	Give a judgment about the value of something and support that judgment with evidence
define	Make clear what is meant by something; or use a definition or definitions to explore a concept.
demonstrate	Show or prove by reasoning or evidence, display and explain the workings of a system
describe	Present a detailed account of something
discuss	Consider and offer some interpretation or evaluation of something; present and give a judgment on the value of arguments for and against something
distinguish	Bring out the differences between two (possible confusing) items.
enumerate	Give an item by item account of something
evaluate	Attempt to form a judgment about something
examine	Inspect something in detail and investigate the implications
explain	Make clear the details of something; show the reason for, or underlying cause of, or the means by which something occurs
illustrate	Offer an example or examples to show how or that something happens; or make concrete a concept by giving examples.
interpret	Make clear the meaning of something and its implications
justify	Give reasons why certain decisions should be made, or certain conclusions reached
narrate	Concentrate on saying what happened, telling the story
outline	Go through and identify briefly the main features of something
prove	Show by logical argument
relate	Show similarities and connections between two or more things.
review	Report the chief facts about something; or offer a criticism of something.
state	Give the main features, in very clear English (almost like a simple list but written in full sentences).
summarise	Describe something concisely
to what extent	Consider how far something is true, or contributes to a final outcome. Consider also ways in which the proposition is not true.
trace	Identify and describe the development or history of something from some point, or from its origin.