



## Common Instruction Words

Understanding assignment questions: common instruction words used in assignment questions.

### Instruction and definition

**Account for:** Provide reasons for/explain why something exists/happens.

**Account of:** Provide an account of: Describe an issue, process or event in detail.

**Analyse:** Consider each idea / argument presented in a question / statement in detail and describe the connections between them.

**Assess:** Consider the value or importance of something, taking into account both positive and negative and debatable aspects.

**Comment on:** State your views based on what you have read, researched by other means or learnt in lectures and tutorials.

**Compare:** Show the similarities between two or more issues; identify two or more views on the same issue and discuss the similarities and differences.

**Contrast:** Discuss the differences between two or more issues.

**Critically analyse:** Provide an in depth examination of the strengths and weaknesses of the ideas/arguments in the assessment question/statement supported by evidence.

**Define:** Provide a precise meaning of.

**Describe:** Provide an account of; outline the features of an issue, event or process.

**Discuss:** Consider from more than one point of view. Provide arguments for and against the main ideas and draw a conclusion.

**Evaluate:** Decide the value of an issue, process or event.

**Examine:** Describe in detail; explore the meaning and implications.

**Explain:** Provide a detailed account of an issue, process or event; offer reasons why, describe cause and effect.

**Illustrate:** Support a point of view with written examples, statistics, diagrams, charts.

**Justify:** Give reasons in support of conclusions drawn.

**Outline:** Provide a general description or summary of the main features.

**Prove:** Provide irrefutable evidence and/or a logical sequence of arguments to demonstrate the truth of a claim/s.

**Relate to:** Explain how an issue, event or process is connected to / impacts on / or compares and / or contrasts with another issue, event or process.

**Review:** A factual account / reporting of available information, a process or event.

**Summarise:** Briefly outline the main features / arguments. Don't include related details or examples.

**To what extent:** Assess how much agreement for / acceptance of a proposition is credible based on available evidence for and against the proposition.

**Trace:** Show the path of development of an issue or event. May require both a description and an explanation of the issue or the event.

