

OXFORD

INTERNATIONAL
AQA EXAMINATIONS

INTERNATIONAL AS AND A-LEVEL MATHEMATICS

(9660)

Command words

For teaching from September 2017 onwards

For AS exams in June 2018 onwards

For A-level exams in June 2019 onwards

INTRODUCTION

Command words are the words and phrases used in exams and other assessment tasks that tell students how they should answer the question. The following command words list contains words and their meanings that are relevant to this subject:

Advise/instruct

What does the person in the question need to know? What would you tell them if you were able?

Comment on

Describe a notable feature of the situation in the question.

Compare

Describe the significant similarities or differences between.

Construct

Use appropriate information or premises to form (may be related to proof).

Deduce

Like 'show' except that it specifically indicates that a previous result (or results) in the question is relevant.

Describe

Give full details of.

Differentiate

Find the derivative of.

Draw

Draw neatly and accurately.

Estimate

Perform a calculation leading to an approximate answer.

Expand

Multiply out using the distributive law or binomial theorem.

Explain

Written explanation is required. This can include (or be substantially) arithmetic, algebraic, diagrammatic or graphical work as appropriate.

Express

Give an answer in the form described in the question.

Factorise

Write the expression as a product of irreducible factors.

Find/determine

Obtain an answer.

Forecast

Assuming the current trend continues, find.

Integrate

Find the integral of.

Interpret

Determine what the results mean in the context of the question.

Investigate/examine/test/carry out (a test)

Inquire into, for example by performing a hypothesis test that will lead to a conclusion relating to the context of the question. May be used in other contexts apart from statistics, for example 'examine the argument...'

Justify

Give working or reasons to support your answers.

Name

Give the technical term for.

Plot

Accurately place points on a graph.

Prove

Requires rigour. Formal use of the methods of mathematical argument is being assessed, eg 'Prove by contradiction that...', 'Prove by induction that...'. Sometimes will refer to a standard result for the specification.

Simplify

Cancel down fractions (possibly algebraic), collect like terms and use standard simplifying results from within the specification (eg $\ln e = 1$).

Sketch

Does not need to be a completely accurate drawing, but should illustrate all the significant features of the graph/shape.

Solve

Find all values that satisfy the given equation or inequality.

Show

Construct a logical argument that shows that the given information leads to the printed result.

Verify

Requires a demonstration that something is correct or incorrect in a given case.

Work out/calculate

A calculation or calculations are required.

Write down/state/give

Intermediate working out will not be expected and should not be necessary.



OXFORD INTERNATIONAL AQA EXAMINATIONS
GREAT CLARENDON STREET, OXFORD, OX2 6DP
UNITED KINGDOM

enquiries@oxfordaqaexams.org.uk
oxfordaqaexams.org.uk