

OXFORD

INTERNATIONAL
AQA EXAMINATIONS

INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL

CHEMISTRY

(9620)

Command words used in our International
AS and A-level exams

Command words are the words and phrases used in exams and other assessment tasks that tell students how they should answer the question. Questions will, wherever possible, start with a command word, or an everyday word such as “why” or “what” which has got a clear meaning.

Most command words definitions are common to the three sciences at A-level. Where there are subtle differences, these are marked with a *. This occurs as the skills required for Biology, Chemistry and Physics are slightly different.

Analyse *

Interpret data to arrive at a conclusion.

Calculate

Work out the value of something.

Comment *

Present an informed opinion.

Compare

Identify similarities and/or differences.

Complete

Finish a task by adding to given information.

Deduce

Draw conclusions from information provided.

Define

Specify meaning.

Describe *

Set out characteristics.

Design

Set out how something will be done.

Determine

Use given data or information to obtain an answer.

Draw

Produce a diagram.

Estimate

Assign an approximate value.

Evaluate

Judge from available evidence.

Explain *

Set out purposes or reasons.

Give

Produce an answer from recall or from given information.

Identify *

Name or otherwise characterise.

Justify

Support a case with evidence.

Label

Provide appropriate names on a diagram.

List

List a number of features or points without further elaboration.

Name

Identify using a recognised technical term.

Outline

Set out main characteristics.

Predict

Give a plausible outcome.

Show

Provide structured evidence to reach a conclusion.

Sketch

Draw approximately.

State

Express in clear terms.

Suggest *

Present a possible case/solution.