

OXFORD

INTERNATIONAL
AQA EXAMINATIONS

INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL PHYSICS

(9630)

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.

Annotate

Add notation or labelling to a graph, diagram or other drawing.

Apply *

Use information in a new context.

Calculate

Work out the value of something.

Comment *

Make a judgement based on a value.

Compare

Identify similarities and/or differences.

Construct

Assemble a piece of equipment, usually in the context of a practical test.

Deduce

Draw conclusions from information provided.

Describe *

Give an account of.

Design

Set out how something will be done.

Determine

Use given data or information to obtain an answer.

Discuss

Present key points.

Distinguish

List the differences between different items.

Draw

Produce a diagram.

Evaluate

Judge from available evidence.

Explain *

Give reasons.

Identify *

Provide an answer from a number of alternatives.

List

List a number of features or points without further elaboration.

Measure

Find an item of data for a given quantity.

Outline

Set out main characteristics.

Predict

Give a plausible outcome.

Show

Provide structured evidence to reach a conclusion.

Sketch

Draw approximately.

Solve

Arrive at answer using a numerical or algebraic method.

State

Express in clear terms.

Suggest *

Present a possible case/solution.

Write

Recall basic knowledge possibly after a simple numerical manipulation.