OxfordAQA International AS/A-level
Computer Science (9645)

Command words

For teaching from September 2024 onwards
For International AS exams in May/June 2025 onwards
For International A-Level exams in May/June 2026 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:

Calculate

Work out the value of something.

Compare

Identify similarities and/or differences.

Complete

Add missing information to something such as a table or diagram.

Construct

Draw and combine different parts accurately.

Convert

Change a value from one numerical form to another or a measure from one unit to another.

Define

Specify meaning.

Describe

Set out characteristics.

Discuss

Present key points.

Draw

Produce a diagram.

Evaluate

Judge from available evidence.

Explain

Set out purposes or reasons.

Find

Identify something from information given.

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Give

Produce an answer from recall.

How/what

These can be used for more direct questions.

Identify

Name or otherwise characterise.

Justify

Support a case with evidence.

Label

Add a title, labels or brief explanation(s) to a diagram.

List

List a number of features or points without further elaboration.

Modify

Make changes to something to become different.

Name

Give the correct title or term.

Represent

To show or present something.

Shade

Show a required region with dark colouring.

Show

Provide structured evidence to reach a conclusion.

Simplify

To make something less complex.

State

Express clearly and briefly.

Suggest

Present a possible case/solution.

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Test

Find out how well something works.

Tick

Mark an item with a tick to indicate that something has been chosen.

Trace

Follow and record the different stages in an algorithm.

Write

Write an answer or code to fulfil the instruction.