

# GCSE Physics Command Words

Command words are the words and phrases used in exams that tell you how you should answer a question.

Calculate	You should use numbers given in the question to work out the answer.
Choose	Select from a range of alternatives.
Compare	This requires you to describe the similarities and/or differences between things, not just write about one.
Complete	Answers should be written in the space provided, for example, on a diagram, in spaces in a sentence or in a table.
Define	Give the meaning of something.
Describe	You may be asked to recall some facts, events or process in an accurate way.
Design	Set out how something will be done.
Determine	Use given data or information to obtain and answer.
Draw	To produce, or add to, a diagram.
Estimate	Give an approximate value.
Evaluate	You should use the information supplied as well as your knowledge and understanding to consider evidence for and against.
Explain	You should make something clear, or state the reasons for something happening.
Give	Only a short answer is required, not an explanation or a description.
Identify	Name or otherwise characterise.
Justify	Use evidence from the information supplied to support an answer.
Label	Provide appropriate names on a diagram.
Measure	Find an item of data for a given quantity.
Name	Only a short answer is required, not an explanation or a description. Often it can be answered with a single word, phrase or sentence.
Plan	Write a method.
Plot	Mark on a graph using data given.
Predict	Give a plausible outcome.
Show	Provide structured evidence to reach a conclusion.
Sketch	Draw approximately.
Suggest	This term is used in questions where students need to apply their knowledge and understanding to a new situation.
Use	The answer must be based on the information given in the question. Unless the information given in the question is used, no marks can be given. In some cases you might be asked to use your own knowledge and understanding.
Work out	You should use numbers given in the question to work out the answer.
Write	Only a short answer is required, not an explanation or a description.