



SAQS - SIMPLIFIED KEY WORD INDICATORS



Keywords highlight the level of detail expected within an answer. See the below table for definitions and a 'expected content' for an answer.

Tip: read the whole question and understand what the key word(s) are asking for.

Keyword	Explanation
Critically Analyse/ Evaluate	Give your verdict as to what extent a statement or findings are true, or to what extent you agree with them. Provide evidence taken from a wide range of sources which both agree with and contradict an argument. Come to a conclusion, basing your decision on what you judge to be the most important factors and justify how you have made your choice.
Critically Compare/ Contrast	Give your verdict as to the similarities and differences between two or more situations. State and explain if any of the shared similarities or differences are more important than others. Provide/ draw upon evidence taken from a wide range of sources.
Appraise	Give your verdict as to the value or quality of a specific issue/ topic and include examples where appropriate. Provide/ draw upon evidence appropriately taken from a wide range of sources.
Formulate	To develop a method to address a specific issue/ topic. Provide/ draw upon evidence appropriately taken from a wide range of sources
Analyse	Break an issue into parts. Look in depth at each part using supporting arguments and evidence for and against as well as how these relate to one another.
Compare	Identify the similarities and differences between two or more situations. Say if any of the shared similarities or differences are more important than others. Provide/ draw upon evidence appropriately taken from a wide range of sources.
Contrast	Focus more on the dissimilarities between two or more situations, or what sets them apart. Point out any differences which are particularly significant. Provide/ draw upon evidence appropriately taken from a wide range of sources.
Explain	Clarify a topic by giving a detailed account to understand why or how something happens. Responses should have clarity so that procedures or sequences of events can be understood, defining key terms where appropriate, and be substantiated with relevant research.
Assess	Weigh up to what extent something is true. Persuade the reader of the argument by drawing on relevant research / evidence and point out any flaws and counter-arguments as well. Conclude by stating clearly how far own positions with regards to the original proposition.
Describe	Give a detailed written account of the distinctive features of a subject. The account should be factual, without any attempt to explain. When describing a subject (or object) a test of sufficient detail would be that another person would be able to visualise what is being described.
Discuss	Give a detailed account including a range of views or opinions, which include contrasting views.
Identify	Determine what the key points to be addressed are and the implications. Can often be thought of as a list.
Summarise	Give a brief account of relevant information in own words.
Review	To examine, survey, reconsider a subject/situation, theory or item.