

Examination Jargon

1. **Define** – set down the precise meaning of a word or phrase. A definition should not go beyond a paragraph. In fact, if necessary, define in a single sentence.
2. **Describe** – Give a detailed or graphic account by showing all the main features or characteristics. Description is always given in prose.
3. **Discuss** – Investigate or examine by setting an argument, debate, giving reasons for and against.
4. **Illustrate** – Use a figure or diagram to explain or clarify; or make clear by use of concrete examples
5. **Outline** – Give the main features or general principles of a subject omitting minor details and emphasizing arrangement
6. **State** – Present in clear, brief form
Evaluate – Make plain, interpret and give reason for
7. **Trace** – Follow the development of something from one point of origin to another
8. **Interpret** – Expand the meaning of anything making clear and explicit. Usually give your own judgment.
9. **In your own opinion** – Suggest your own views on what you thinking of the phenomenon in question. This should be based on geographical facts.
10. **Name** – No explanation needed. State in points only. Do not elaborate.
11. **Review** – Make a critical survey of the subject
12. **When** – Mention the period, space of time or date, year, etc.
13. **Why** – A more difficult question which demands that clear reasons should be given or supported by a sound argument
14. **Compare** – Look for similarities and differences between two or more phenomena
15. **Relate** – Show how things are connected to each other and to what extent
16. **Account for** – Give reasons as to why a phenomenon has taken place. Explain in prose (essay form).
17. **Justify** – Show adequate grounds for decisions or conclusions
18. **Explain** – A common jargon that entails giving reasons why something or anything happened or will happen
19. **Analyze** – Take one point at a time and discuss it to ascertain whether it was a valid contribution to the occurrence of an event.
20. **Evaluate** – Make plain, interpret, and give reason for