

Command terms for theatre

Command terms with definitions

Students should be familiar with the following key terms and phrases used in the theatre assessment objectives and assessment criteria, which are to be understood as described below. Although these terms will be used frequently in the assessment criteria, other terms are also used to direct students to present their work in a specific way.

| Command term | Assessment objective level | Definition |
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| Analyze | AO2 | Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure. |
| Apply | AO2 | Use an idea, equation, principle, theory or law in relation to a given problem or issue. |
| Compare and contrast | AO3 | Give an account of similarities and differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout. |
| Contrast | AO3 | Give an account of the differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout. |
| Demonstrate | AO2 | Make clear by reasoning or evidence, illustrating with examples or practical application. |
| Describe | AO1 | Give a detailed account. |
| Discuss | AO3 | Offer a considered and balanced review that includes a range of arguments, factors or hypotheses. Opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence. |
| Evaluate | AO3 | Make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and limitations. |
| Examine | AO3 | Consider an argument or concept in a way that uncovers the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue. |

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| Explain | AO2 | Give a detailed account including reasons or causes |
| Explore | AO2 | Undertake a systematic process of discovery. |
| Identify | AO1 | Provide an answer from a number of possibilities. |
| Justify | AO3 | Give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion. |
| List | AO4 | Give a sequence of brief answers with no explanation. |
| Outline | AO1 | Give a brief account or summary. |
| Present | AO1 | Offer for display, observation, examination or consideration. |
| Show | AO4 | Give the steps in a calculation or derivation. |
| To what extent | AO3 | Consider the merits or otherwise of an argument or concept. Opinions and conclusions should be presented clearly and supported with appropriate evidence and sound argument. |