

# Glossary of Terms

GCE Economics H061/H461

# Definitions

These are examples of the command words used in GCE Economics questions with what they should mean to candidates. On occasion, two such command words may be used, for example 'State and explain...'

**Analyse** Establish the key characteristic(s), cause(s), or consequence(s) of an economic issue or relationship using the economist's toolkit of concepts, theories or techniques. This may make use of a diagram or transmission mechanism.

**Assess** Determine the significance of an economic issue by considering arguments or viewpoints and reaching an informed judgement on the extent to which they hold true. The assessment must be supported by preceding analysis.

**Calculate** Use the data provided to find the value or change in the value of an economic indicator.

**Comment on** Make a judgement on, or consider other relevant factors in relation to, an economic issue or argument based on preceding analysis. This might involve showing what the issue depends upon, what the other side of the argument might be, or what other factors need to be considered.

**Compare or Contrast** Show the similarities and/or differences between two or more concepts, terms, situations or sets of data.

**Define** Give the meaning of an economic term or concept.

**Describe or Outline** Give the main features of an economic term or concept.

**Discuss or Evaluate** Make a judgement on an economics issue by in-depth analysis and/or weighing up competing arguments or alternative explanations or policies, showing an awareness of the strengths of both sides of the argument and what other factors might need to be considered.

**Distinguish between** Show the difference between two economic concepts or terms by going beyond a definition of each.

**Explain** Give reasons for or causes of an economic issue or relationship.

**Identify** Show the nature or characteristics of an economic issue or concept by drawing on the case material provided.

**Justify** Give reasons for your answer or reasons to support a judgement or viewpoint. The assessment must be supported by the preceding analysis.

**Name or State or Give** Show knowledge of an economic issue, concept, reason or relationship. No explanation is required, unless another command word, such as 'explain', follows. It is important to draw upon your knowledge and understanding of economics rather than provide a general response.

**Show or Draw or Illustrate** Use a diagram. It is not always necessary to explain the diagram, but it must be fully and accurately labelled, perhaps with a key or relevant shading.

**What is meant by** Either explain or describe, depending on the context, an economic term or concept. This may be done by explaining or elaborating on a definition.

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**NB.** A 'comment on' question will normally require the candidate to analyse and evaluate, but such questions will always carry fewer marks than 'assess' or 'discuss' or 'evaluate' questions. For a 'comment on' question, candidates are not expected to respond in the same depth as for an 'assess' or 'discuss' or 'evaluate' question.