

IB Economics Command Terms

| COMMAND TERM | DEFINITION |
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| Identify | Provide an answer from a number of possibilities |
| Calculate | Obtain a numerical Answer showing the relevant stage in the working. |
| Outline | Give a brief account or summary |
| Define | Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quality |
| Describe | Give a detailed account |
| Explain | Give a detailed account including reasons and causes |
| Distinguish | Make clear differences between two or more concepts or items |
| Apply | Use knowledge of an existing concept or situation to understand and explain a new concept or situation |
| Analyze | Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure |
| Compare/Contrast | Give an account of similarities and differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) throughout |
| Justify | Give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion |
| Examine | Consider an argument or concept in a way that uncovers the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue |
| Discuss | 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 | Make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and limitations |
| To what extent | Consider the merits or otherwise of an argument or concept. Opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported with sound argument. |
| Synthesis | Combine elements into a new pattern or product |

Source: IB Subject Guides for Group 3