

27 terms · Biology command terms for the IBO syllabus - exams starting 2016

Define: Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity.

Draw: Represent by means of a labelled, accurate diagram or graph, using a pencil. A ruler (straight edge) should be used for straight lines. Diagrams should be drawn to scale. Graphs should have points correctly plotted (if appropriate) and joined in a straight line or smooth curve.

Label: Add labels to a diagram.

List: Give a sequence of brief answers with no explanation.

Measure: Obtain a value for a quantity.

State: Give a specific name, value or other brief answer without explanation or calculation.

Annotate: Add brief notes to a diagram or graph.

Calculate: Obtain a numerical answer showing the relevant stages in the working (unless instructed not to do so).

Describe: Give a detailed account.

Distinguish: Make clear the differences between two or more concepts or items.

Estimate: Obtain an approximate value.

Identify: Provide an answer from a number of possibilities.

Outline: Give a brief account or summary.

Analyse: Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure.

Comment: Give a judgment based on a given statement or result of a calculation.

Compare: Give an account of the similarities between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

Compare and contrast: Give an account of similarities and differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

Construct: Display information in a diagrammatic or logical form.

Deduce: Reach a conclusion from the information given.

Design: Produce a plan, simulation or model.

Determine: Obtain the only possible answer.

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.

Explain: Give a detailed account including reasons or causes.

Predict: Give an expected result.

Sketch: Represent by means of a diagram or graph (labelled as appropriate). The sketch should give a general idea of the required shape or relationship, and should include relevant features.

Suggest: Propose a solution, hypothesis or other possible answer.