

GCSE Command words LEARN THESE!!!!!!

It is important to know exactly what the question is asking you to do!

If not, you may answer it in the wrong way and lose marks!

Tips from Mr. Hughes

- Pick out the command words when you read a question
- Command words tell you exactly what the examiners want you to do and what they will give you marks for.
- You will get very few marks if you do something else

Describe

Say what you see (WHAT?)

Explain

Say what you see and why you are seeing it (WHY?)

Suggest

Give your own opinion

(based on evidence presented to you and your geographical understanding)

(WHAT DO YOU THINK?)

List

Present facts (based on evidence) in a list form. May require elaboration (explaining) but the question will usually tell you this

Give Reasons For /
Account For
(see explain)

Compare / How Are ?
and ? different

Give the differences and / or similarities
between the two (or more) examples

Examples

An example might be that the following two questions need
very different answers:

1) Describe how a wave breaks on a beach. (2)

"The top of a wave falls over the bottom crashing onto the
beach."

2) Explain how a wave breaks on a beach. (2)

"The bottom of the wave is slowed down by friction from the
sea bed, so the top topples over the bottom because it is
moving faster."

**The answer to question 1 said HOW it
happened, and the answer to question 2 said
WHY it happened.**

**Good luck and remember to ask Mr. Hughes if
you do not fully understand these words.**