

**Definitions of the common operative verbs
used in the grading criteria**

Pass verbs	
Describe	Give a clear description that includes all the relevant features - think of it as 'painting a picture with words'
Define	Clearly explain what a particular term means and give an example, if appropriate, to show what you mean
Design	Create a plan, proposal or outline to illustrate a straightforward concept or idea
Explain	Set out in detail the meaning of something, with reasons. More difficult than describe or list, so it can help to give an example to show what you mean. Start by introducing the topic then give the 'how' or 'why'
Identify	Point out or choose the right one or give a list of the main features
Illustrate	Include examples or a diagram to show what you mean
Interpret	Define or explain the meaning of something
List	Provide the information in a list, rather than in continuous writing
Outline	Write a clear description but not a detailed one
Plan	Work out and plan how you would carry out a task or activity
State	Write a clear and full account
Summarise	Write down or articulate briefly the main points or essential features
Merit verbs	
Analyse	Identify separate factors, say how they are related and how each one contributes to the topic
Assess	Give careful consideration to all the factors or events that apply and identify which are the most important or relevant
Compare/ Contrast	Identify the main factors that apply in two or more situations and explain the similarities and differences or advantages and disadvantages
Demonstrate	Provide several relevant examples or related evidence which clearly support the arguments you are making. This may include showing practical skills
Design	Create a plan, proposal or outline to illustrate a relatively complex concept or idea
Explain in detail	Provide details and give reasons and/or evidence to clearly support the argument you are making
Justify How/ Why	Give reasons or evidence to support your opinion or view to show how you arrived at these conclusions
Distinction verbs	
Appraise	Consider the positive and negative points and give a reasoned judgement
Assess	Make a judgement on the importance of something - similar to evaluate
Comment critically	Give your view after you have considered all the evidence. In particular decide the importance of all the relevant positive and negative aspects
Criticise	Review a topic or issue objectively and weigh up both positive and negative points before making a decision
Draw conclusions	Use the evidence you have provided to reach a reasoned judgement
Evaluate	Review the information then bring it together to form a conclusion. Give evidence for each of your views or statements
Evaluate critically	Decide the degree to which a statement is true or the importance or value of something by reviewing the information. Include precise and detailed information and assess possible alternatives, bearing in mind their strengths and weaknesses if they were applied instead