

Appendix 2: Glossary of action verbs

The glossary is designed to clarify the learning outcomes.

Action verbs	Students should be able to
Appreciate	acknowledge and reflect upon the value or merit of something
Analyse	study or examine something in detail, break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure; identify parts and relationships, and to interpret information to reach conclusions
Assess	show skills of judgement and evaluation, balancing different perspectives
Compare	give an account of the similarities and/or differences between two (or more) items, perspectives or positions, referring to both/all of them throughout
Consider	reflect upon the significance of something
Create	bring something into existence; to cause something to happen as a result of one's actions
Critique	state the positive and negative aspects of, for example, an idea, perspective or event and give reasons
Debate	set out a viewpoint or argument on a subject on which people have different views, supporting one's stance with evidence
Describe	give an account, using words, diagrams or images, of the main points of the topic
Devise	plan, create or formulate something by careful thought
Differentiate	recognise or ascertain what makes something different
Discuss	examine different concepts, perspectives or opinions on a topic and then come to their own conclusion/viewpoint, supported by appropriate evidence or reasons
Engage	participate or become involved in something, allowing it to occupy your interest or attention
Evaluate (ethical judgement)	collect and examine evidence to make judgments and appraisals; describe how evidence supports or does not support a judgement; identify the limitations of evidence in conclusions; make judgments about ideas, solutions or methods

Examine	enquire into/look closely at an argument or concept in a way that uncovers its origins, assumptions and relationships
Explain	implies more than a list of facts/ideas. The reasons or cause for these facts/ideas must also be given
Explore	systematically look into something closely for the purpose of discovery; to scrutinise or probe
Identify	recognise and state briefly a distinguishing fact or feature
Investigate	observe, study, or make a detailed and systematic examination, in order to establish facts and provide supporting evidence for conclusions
List	provide a number of points or facts, with no elaboration
Justify	give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion
Outline	set out the main points of information on a topic; restrict to essentials
Present	show something for others to examine
Recommend	put forward something with approval as being suitable for a particular purpose
Recognise	identify facts, characteristics or concepts that are critical (relevant/appropriate) to the understanding of a situation, event, process or phenomenon
Reflect	give thoughtful and careful consideration to their experiences, beliefs and knowledge in order to gain new insights and make meaning of it for themselves
Research	find suitable information, sort, record, analyse and draw conclusions
State	provide a concise statement with little or no supporting argument
Suggest	propose a solution, hypothesis or other possible answer
Survey	examine or measure in a detailed manner
Synthesise	bring together separate elements/ideas in order to arrive at new understanding
Trace	set out the development of a thought, belief, practice, event, etc. in a chronological manner