

ANALYSING ESSAY TITLES

In the left column are a number of key words used in essay titles. On the right are a number of explanations how to respond to these words. Drag the correct word next to its explanation.

<i>Analyse</i>		.Requires an answer which is similar to the one with the key-word 'discuss', but the conclusion in this type is expected to make a judgment, either for or against the concept being discussed.
<i>Compare</i>		Requires an answer which consists mainly of examples to demonstrate or prove the subject of the question.
<i>Contrast</i>		Requires an answer which points out mistakes or weaknesses, and which also indicates any favourable aspects of the subject of the question. It requires a balanced answer.
<i>Criticize</i>		Requires an answer which explains the precise meaning of a concept.
<i>Define</i>		Requires an answer which points out the differences between two items
<i>Discuss</i>		Requires an answer which explains an item or concept, and then gives details about it with supportive information, examples, points for and against, and explanations for the facts put forward.
<i>Explain</i>		Requires an answer which sets items side by side and shows their similarities and differences. A balanced (fair, objective) answer is expected.
<i>Evaluate</i>		Requires an answer which expresses the relevant points briefly and clearly. It may involve a lengthy discussion or minor details..
<i>Illustrate</i>		Requires an answer which gives only the reasons for a position or argument. Note, however, that the proposition to be argued may be a negative one.
<i>Justify</i>		Requires an answer which takes apart an idea, concept or statement in order to consider all the factors it consists of. Answers of this type should be very methodical and logically organized
<i>Prove/ Disprove</i>		Requires an answer which contains the main points and not all the small details. Questions of this type often require short answers.
<i>State</i>		Mostly used in historical questions; it requires the statement and brief description in logical or chronological order of the stages in the development of e.g. a theory, a person's life, process etc
<i>Summarize/ Outline</i>		Requires an answer which demonstrates the logical arguments and/or evidence for or against (as appropriate) connected with a proposition.
<i>Trace</i>		Requires an answer which offers a rather detailed and exact explanation of an idea or principle, or a set of reasons for a situation or attitude.