Task commands

1 Look at the list of tasks in sentences 1 – 8. In particular, look at the words and phrases in bold, which are telling the writer / speaker what he / she must do. Match these words with a suitable definition of the task command in A – H.

1. **Account for** the increased use of social networking on the Internet. F
2. **Analyse** the effects of climate change around the world. .....
3. **Evaluate** the improvements you have made to your English since you started using this book. .....
4. **Compare** and **contrast** the two machines. .....
5. **Define** 'happiness', and say how important it is. .....
6. **Demonstrate** the different features on this mobile phone. .....
7. **Discuss** the advantages and disadvantages of growing up in a big city. .....
8. **Elaborate on** your feelings about global capitalism. .....

A. Give the meaning of something.

B. Talk about something with someone else, or write about it from different viewpoints.

C. Calculate the value, importance or effect of something.

D. Explain something closely and scientifically.

E. Explain something in more detail than you did previously.

F. Say why something has happened or is happening.

G. Show how something works, usually by physically operating it so that the other person knows what it does and how it works.

H. Look at two things side by side to see in what way they are similar and / or different.

2 Now do the same with these.

1. **Estimate** the costs of setting up a website for the school. .....
2. **Examine** the causes of global warming. .....
3. **Illustrate** the problems caused by the increased use of private vehicles. .....
4. **Justify** your reasons for only considering one aspect of the problem. .....
5. **Outline** your country's environmental policy. .....
6. **Predict** the changes that we are going to see in information technology in the next 10 years. .....
7. **Suggest** ways in which food shortages in some countries could be solved. .....
8. **Trace** the development of space travel since the 1960s. .....

A. Explain, with real examples, why something has happened or is happening.

B. Say what you think is going to happen in the future.

C. Describe what you think can be done in order to achieve something.

D. Calculate (but not exactly) the value or cost of something.

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E. Give the main points of something, or a broad description of something, without giving too much detail.

F. Give a brief history of something, in the order in which it happened.

G. Write or talk about the different aspects (e.g., causes, results) of something.

H. Show that you have a good reason for doing something, especially if other people think you have done something wrong or bad.

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