

What Do The Exam Command Words Mean in IB Physics?

REFERENCE SHEET

This reference sheet can be used when completing past paper questions as part of your revision.

Magic Marking Grid		Past Paper / Test Score
Question Number		
Topic / Concept		
Didn't read the question properly		
Didn't understand the question		
Answered "explain" question poorly		
Confused two similar ideas		
Missed out a question by mistake		
Totally lost...		
Didn't know which formula		
Didn't show units		
Simple/unforced error (or calculator mistake)		
Basic lack of knowledge (e.g. did not know definition)		
Lack of working/lost marks		
Poor graph work		
Mathematical error (e.g. ratio, order of magnitude, etc)		
Non-physics answer		
Momentary brain freeze - no reason		
Didn't know what I even said there!		
Did not conduct a reasonableness check		
Poorly drawn diagram		

You may want to also make use of my Magic Marking Grid to help you develop your exam technique further.



DOWNLOAD HERE



You can do it!

The IB Physics exam does not have to be hard! You simply have to strategise your revision and overcome overwhelm. I can help you. Let's do this!"

- **SALLY WEATHERLY, CEO GRADEPOD**



LET'S SEE THOSE EXAM COMMAND WORDS





Exam Command Words in IB Physics

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EASIER QUESTIONS WILL USE THESE EXAM COMMAND WORDS

Define	Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity.
Draw	Represent by means of a labelled, accurate diagram or graph, using a pencil. A ruler (straight edge) should be used for straight lines. Diagrams should be drawn to scale. Graphs should have points correctly plotted (if appropriate) and joined in a straight line or smooth curve.
Label	Add labels to a diagram.
List	Give a sequence of brief answers with no explanation.
Measure	Obtain a value for a quantity.
State	Give a specific name, value or other brief answer without explanation or calculation.
Write down	Obtain the answer(s), usually by extracting information. Little or no calculation is required. Working does not need to be shown.
Annotate	Add brief notes to a diagram or graph.
Apply	Use an idea, equation, principle, theory or law in relation to a given problem or issue.
Calculate	Obtain a numerical answer showing the relevant stages in the working.
Describe	Give a detailed account.
Distinguish	Make clear the differences between two or more concepts or items.
Estimate	Obtain an approximate value.
Formulate	Express precisely and systematically the relevant concept(s) or argument(s).
Identify	Provide an answer from a number of possibilities.
Outline	Give a brief account or summary.
Plot	Mark the position of points on a diagram.



Exam Command Words in IB Physics

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HARDER QUESTIONS WILL USE THESE EXAM COMMAND WORDS

Analyse	Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure.
Comment	Give a judgment based on a given statement or result of a calculation.
Compare	Give an account of the similarities between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.
Compare and contrast	Give an account of similarities and differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.
Construct	Display information in a diagrammatic or logical form.
Deduce	Reach a conclusion from the information given.
Demonstrate	Make clear by reasoning or evidence, illustrating with examples or practical application.
Derive	Manipulate a mathematical relationship to give a new equation or relationship.
Design	Produce a plan, simulation or model.
Determine	Obtain the only possible answer.
Discuss	Offer a considered and balanced review that includes a range of arguments, factors or hypotheses. Opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence.
Evaluate	Make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and limitations.
Explain	Give a detailed account including reasons or causes.
Hence	Use the preceding work to obtain the required result.
Hence or otherwise	It is suggested that the preceding work is used, but other methods could also receive credit.
Justify	Give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion.
Predict	Give an expected result.
Show	Give the steps in a calculation or derivation.
Show that	Obtain the required result (possibly using information given) without the formality of proof. "Show that" questions do not generally require the use of a calculator.



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WHERE TO GET FURTHER HELP

IB Physics is a daunting course. This guide has taught you invaluable tips on how to maximise your marks in exams through use of understanding the exam command words used by the examiners. **What if you need help with the actual physics?**

IB PHYSICS TEACHER



You should be able to expect further help from your physics teacher, but remember that the relationship between student and teacher is built on respect. Be respectful of their time and prepare specific questions in advance.

IB PHYSICS TUTOR



Properly qualified tutors are often very expensive and difficult to find. If you'd like a face-to-face tutor, make sure they have taught IB Physics before and are fully aware of the intricacies of the IB Physics specification. Be prepared to pay £50+ per hour....

IB PHYSICS ONLINE COURSE



A high-quality online revision course will offer a series of simple, short tutorials that help you to quickly master IB Physics, guide revision and achieve top marks. It will lead you step-by-step through all the concepts you need to maximise your marks in your IB Physics exams. An **excellent** online revision course, will offer direct access to to the most highly respected professionals in the IB Physics space.

I believe online revision courses are the modern way to learn. It will come as no surprise to find out that I have an online revision course for IB Physics...!



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