IB Command Terms

Define – Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase or physical quantity.

Draw – Represent by means of pencil lines.

Label – Add labels to a diagram.

List – Give a sequence of names or other brief answers with no explanation.

Measure – Find a value or quantity.

State – Give a specific name, or other brief answer without explanation or calculation.

Annotate – Add brief notes to a diagram or graph.

Apply – Use an idea, principle, equation, theory or law in a new situation.

Calculate – Find numerical answer showing relevant stages in the working.

Describe – Give a detailed account.

Distinguish – give the differences between two or more different terms.

Estimate – Find an approximate value for an unknown quantity.

Identify – Find an answer from a given number of possibilities.

Outline – give a brief account or summary.

Analyze – interpret data to reach conclusions.

Comment - Give judgment based on a given statement or result of a calculation.

Compare – Give an account of similarities and differences between two or more items, referring to both of them throughout.

Construct – represent or develop in graphical form.

Deduce – Reach a conclusion from the information given.

Derive – manipulate mathematical relationships to give a new equation or relationship.

Design – produce a plan, simulation, or model.

Determine – find the only possible answer.

Discuss – give a detailed account including where possible a range of arguments for and against the relative importance of various factors, or comparisons of alternative hypotheses.

Evaluate – assess the implications and limitations.

Explain - give a detailed account of causes reason or mechanisms.

Predict – give an expected result.

Show – give steps in derivation or calculation.

Sketch – represent by means of a graph showing a line and labeled but unscaled axes but with important features clearly indicated.

Solve – obtain an answer using algebraic and/or numerical methods.

Suggest –Propose a hypothesis or other possible answer.