



**The John Paul II
Multi Academy Company**
Bishop Walsh Catholic School
Holy Cross Catholic Primary School
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
St Nicholas Catholic Primary School



Bishop Walsh
Catholic School

Some key terms used in examination questions

Account for – Explain the process or reason for something being the way it is

Analyse – Explore the main ideas of the subject, show why they are important and how they are related.

Calculate – Find out by using mathematics

Comment on – Discuss the subject, explain it and give an opinion on it

Compare – Show the similarities (but you could also point out the differences)

Complete – Finish off.

Conclude – Describe after reasoning something out

Contrast – Show the difference ('compare and contrast' questions are very common in exams – they want you to say how something is similar and how it may be different too).

Criticise – Analyse and then make a judgements or give an opinion. You could show both the good and bad points. (You could refer to an expert's opinion within this question.)

Define – Give the meaning. This should be shorts.

Describe – Give a detailed account.

Differentiate – Explore and explain the difference

Discuss – Explore the subject by looking at its advantages and disadvantages (i.e. pros and cons, for and against). Attempt to come to some sort of judgement.

Distinguish – Explain the difference.

Enumerate – Make a list of points under discussion

Estimate – Guess the amount or value

Examine – Look at something closely

Explain – Describe, giving reasons and causes

Explore – Look at something closely or investigate.

Express – Put the ideas into words.

Evaluate – Give an opinion by exploring the good and bad points (pros and cons). It's a bit like asking you to assess something. Attempt to support your argument with expert opinion.

Give reasons for – Use words like **because** in your answer as you will be explaining how or why something is that way.

Identify – Recognise, prove something as being certain.

Illustrate – Show by explaining and giving examples.

Indicate – Point Out, make something known.

Interpret – Explain the meaning by using examples and opinions.

Justify – Give good reasons for offering an opinion or reaching a conclusion.

List – An item by item record of relevant items. This would normally be in note form without any need to be descriptive.

Outline – Concentrate on the main bits of the topic or item.

Prove – Give real evidence, not opinion, which proves an argument and shows it to be true.

Summarise – Give the main points of an idea or argument. Leave out unnecessary details which could cloud the issue.

*Caring to learn,
Learning to care*



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