

Assessment in IGCSE Biology 0610

Session 2: Handout 2.11

Command words - What answer do you expect?

- Command words may require either concise answers or extended answers
- Command words may require either recall or making logical connections between pieces of information
- Some command words require only single word or single figure answers

Use the Glossary of terms in the syllabus to do the following exercise:

1. Which command words require only one word or one figure answers?
2. Which command words definitely require brief answers?
3. Which command words may have more than one meaning?
4. What is the difference between the command words 'explain' and 'describe' ?
5. What is the difference between the phrase 'what do you understand by...?' and the command word 'explain'?
6. What is the difference between the command word 'suggest' and the command word 'explain'?
7. Do your students understand these command words? If not, how would you make sure that they do?

Take a copy of a recent 0610 Paper 2 or 3 and analyse it for command words. Which of the command words are most commonly used?