

Key words of Academic Assignments

Examine your Assignment/Essay title for any of the words below:

Key words: Meaning:

<i>Account for</i>	Give reasons for; explain
<i>Analyse</i>	Break up into parts; investigate
<i>Apply</i>	Analyse one idea in terms of another; connect two ideas
<i>Collate</i>	Bring together; compare critically
<i>Compare</i>	Look for similarities and differences between; perhaps conclude which item is preferable
<i>Consider</i>	take into account; weigh up advantages/disadvantages
<i>Contextualise</i>	Put in context
<i>Contrast</i>	Bring out the differences between
<i>Critique</i>	Criticise; give your judgement on the good or bad points, backing up your views with evidence and explanation
<i>Define</i>	Give the precise meaning of; explain in detail
<i>Demonstrate</i>	Prove with examples; show
<i>Describe</i>	Give a detailed account
<i>Develop</i>	Explain in detail; elaborate on
<i>Discuss</i>	Consider an issue in writing, weighing up points for and against
<i>Evaluate</i>	Weigh up and judge the merits, giving evidence
<i>Examine</i>	Look closely into
<i>Explain</i>	Make clear; interpret; give reasons for
<i>Explore</i>	Consider thoroughly from a variety of viewpoints
<i>Identify</i>	Point out and describe
<i>Illustrate</i>	Give examples which make the point clear
<i>Interpret</i>	Explain in your own words; give your own understanding of
<i>Investigate</i>	Examine in detail

<i>Justify</i>	Give reasons to support an idea or action
<i>Outline</i>	Give the main features or general principles of a subject, emphasising structure and arrangement
<i>Reflect on</i>	Think about; evaluate
<i>Relate</i>	Show the connections between
<i>Review</i>	Make a survey of, examining the subject carefully
<i>State</i>	Express in words; present in a brief, clear form
<i>Summarise</i>	Give a brief account of the main points, omitting details and examples
<i>Synthesise</i>	Bring elements together to make a complex whole; draw together or integrate issues
<i>Trace</i>	Follow the development of