

Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings

Command verbs

Command verbs are the words in the exam questions that tell you what type of answer the examiner wants to see. For example, you may be asked to explain or discuss something. You need to make sure you read the question carefully and know what each command word requires.

Command verb	Meaning
State	Express something in precise terms, such as a correct name.
Identify	List or name something.
Explain	Set out the main points or reasons for something.
Describe	Give a clear account of the main features of something.
Discuss	Present the key points by giving a balanced argument – look at something from both sides.
Analyse or Evaluate	Discuss the pros and cons, or strengths and weaknesses of something. Draw conclusions and make a judgement from the evidence.