

<b>Directive Word</b>	<b>Requested</b> (What are you being requested to do in your answer?)
Explain	
Tell	
Show	
Solve	
Compare	
Discuss	
Describe	
Justify	
Persuade	
Convince	
Calculate	
Summarize	
Identify	
List	
Predict	
Analyze	
Label	

## Directive Words Reference Sheet

<b>Directive Word</b>	<b>What is Requested</b>
Identify, name	Give an answer from a number of possibilities, often in multiple choice questions, state which one is correct. <b>or</b> distinguish a subject from other subjects with similar attributes.
List	Give a sequence/set of clearly separated names or brief information
Tell, give, state, show	Give a specific name, value, or other brief answer
Define	Mark the limits of, give the exact meaning of ...
Label	Place names on a diagram or picture to identify structures or parts
Calculate	Find a numerical answer using mathematical methods
Solve	Create a plan to answer a problem, often requires a calculation
Summarize	Give the main points without details
Predict, suggest	Give the expected results, create a hypothesis or other possible answer
Explain, describe	Use details to make your answer clear and complete, may include causes, motives, reasons or mechanisms (manner)
Compare	List similarities and differences between two or more items
Contrast	Explain how items are different
Justify	Give reasons to support the correctness of a belief, theory, opinion
Discuss	Tell in detail how and/or why, state the pros and cons of an idea or theory
Analyze	Interpret the data, find and explain patterns
Conclude	Show how the data either supports or does not support an idea, hypothesis, theory
Persuade	Convince another of the correctness of a position