

Year 11: GCSE revision



NATIONAL
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
ACADEMY

Essay skills

Know your command words that often come up in exams:

Evaluate

Consider several options, ideas or arguments and come to a conclusion about their importance/success/worth.

Examine

Consider carefully and provide a detailed account of the indicated topic.

Explain..., Why..., Suggest reasons for...

Set out the causes of a phenomenon and/or the factors which influence its form/nature. This usually requires an understanding of processes. Explanation is a higher-level skill than description and this is often reflected in its greater mark weighting.

Interpret

Ascribe meaning.

Justify

Give reasons for the validity of a view or idea why some action should be undertaken. This might reasonably involve discussing and discounting alternative views or actions. Each of the views present or options available will have positives and negatives. For the outcome(s) chosen, the positives outweigh the negatives. Students should be able to explain all of this review process.

Outline..., Summarise...

Provide a brief account of relevant information.

To what extent...

Form and express a view as to the merit or validity of a view or statement after examining the evidence available and/or different sides of an argument.

