

CMI Awarding Body

CMI Command Verbs Definitions

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AB/POL/0132 - MMMM 2026 - V4

History

Date	Amendments Made
July 2022 V3.0	The following command verbs and definitions were added: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articulate• Complete• Conceptualise• Construct• Deliver• Demonstrate• Explore• Present• Critically Appraise• Critically Assess• Critically Analyse• Critically Discuss• Critically Evaluate• Critically Reflect• Plan
March 2024 V3.1	The following command verb and definition were added: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Devise• Critically Examine
March 2024 V3.2	The following command verb and definition were added: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Report The following command verb and definition were amended: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Present
September 2024 V3.3	The following command verb and definition were amended: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Research
February 2026 V4	The following command verb and definition were amended: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relate

Distribution List

- CMI Quality Managers
- CMI Lead Moderators
- CMI Moderators, Markers, Mappers
- Partner Relationship Managers
- Customer Service Team
- CMI Centres
- This document will be published on the CMI website & MyCMI

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to give a definition of the command verbs used in the CMI qualifications, to guide both Learners and Centres. Some words can be used at different levels of our qualifications, but as learners move up the levels, the depth and breadth of answers/responses required increase. Command words are used in the assessment marking criteria and will showcase how well a learner has answered the assessment criteria.

Command Verbs Definitions

Command Verb	Definition
Analyse	Break the subject or complex situation(s) into separate parts and examine each part in detail; identify the main issues and show how the main ideas are related to practice and why they are important. Reference to current research or theory may support the analysis.
Appraise	Assess and estimate the worth, value, quality, and performance. Consider carefully to form an opinion.
Articulate	Express or clearly state your understanding of the topic.
Assess	Provide a reasoned judgement or rationale of the standard, quality, value or importance of something, informed by relevant facts/rationale.
Comment	Identify and write about the main issues, express an opinion, giving a reaction to what has been read/observed.
Compare	Review the subject(s) in detail – looking at similarities and differences.
Complete	Ensure something is finished with all of its parts.
Conceptualise	Create a diagram, model, chart or graphic with annotations, providing a holistic overview of the process.
Conduct	Organise and perform a particular activity
Construct	To create or build something original
Consider	Take (something) into account (for example, different ideas, perspectives, theories, evidence) when making a judgement
Create	Originate or produce a solution to a problem.
Critically Appraise	As with appraise, a systematic process is used to identify the strengths and weaknesses of information in order to assess the usefulness and validity.
Critically Assess	As with assess, but emphasising on judgments made about arguments by others, and about what is being assessed from a different perspective. Making a reasoned argument based on judgments. Criticality requires the consideration of the validity of sources used. Critical assessment not only considers the evidence above but also the strength

	of the evidence based on the validity of the method of evidence compilation.
Critically Analyse	<p>As with analyse, but questioning and testing the strength of a person and/or others' analyses from different perspectives. Using the process of analysis to make an objective and reasoned argument. Criticality requires the consideration of the validity of sources used.</p> <p>Critical analysis not only considers the evidence above but also the strength of the evidence based on the validity of the method of evidence compilation.</p>
Critically Discuss	<p>As with discuss, but evaluating the pros and cons of the subject at hand critically. Discussing all the aspects and dimensions of the topic at hand. Discussing the effects and impacts of the topic.</p> <p>Critical discussion not only considers the evidence above but also the strength of the evidence based on the validity of the method of evidence compilation.</p>
Critically Evaluate	<p>As with evaluate, but considering the strengths and weaknesses, arguments for and against and/or similarities and differences. The writer should then judge the evidence from different perspectives and make a valid conclusion or reasoned judgement. Apply current research or theories to support the evaluation when applicable.</p> <p>Critical evaluation not only considers the evidence above but also the strength of the evidence based on the validity of the method of evidence compilation.</p>
Critically Examine	<p>As with examine, but provides the opportunity to conduct a thorough examination involving carefully analysing and evaluating a subject/topic to understand its underlying assumptions, logic, and implications to clearly establish a need. It combines both analytical and creative thinking, allowing a deeper understanding and informed judgement and exploration of a process or alternatives. Critical examination aims to promote deeper understanding and informed judgement.</p> <p>Critical examination not only considers the evidence above but also the strength of the evidence based on the validity of the method of evidence compilation.</p>
Critically Reflect	As with reflect, but identifying, questioning, and assessing deeply-held beliefs and assumptions about a topic, the way in which we perceive events and issues, beliefs, feelings, and actions.
Critically	Typically used to qualify verbs such as evaluate, assess, appraise, analyse and reflect. Give in-depth insight, opinion, debate, and verdict based on a wide variety of sources, theories, and research, which may agree and contradict an argument.
Critique	A detailed analysis and assessment of something, especially a literary, philosophical, or political theory.
Define	Show or state clearly and accurately.
Describe	Provide an extended range of detailed factual information about the topic or item in a logical way.

Deliver	Ensure something is conveyed or done with stakeholders/clients.
Demonstrate	Complete a task or activity, showing an understanding of facts, procedures and ideas of a topic and competence through action or activity.
Determine	Settle/conclude an argument/question as a result of an investigation or by referring to an authority.
Develop	Elaborate, expand or progress an idea from a starting point, building upon given information.
Devise	Invent a system, solution or procedure from new/existing principles/ideas
Differentiate	Recognise or ascertain a difference to identify what makes something different.
Discuss	Give a detailed account including a range of views or opinions, which include contrasting perspectives.
Distinguish	Draw or make a distinction between
Draw	Present a conclusion or decision about what is likely to happen based on facts.
Establish	Discover, prove or show something to be true or valid by determining the facts.
Evaluate	Consider the strengths and weaknesses, arguments for and against and/or similarities and differences. The writer should then judge the evidence from different perspectives and make a valid conclusion or reasoned judgement. Apply current research or theories to support the evaluation when applicable.
Examine	Inspect (something) thoroughly in order to determine its nature or condition.
Explain	Make something clear to someone by describing or revealing relevant information in more detail.
Explore	Go through the topic/issue thoroughly, looking at all areas that affect the topic/issue.
Formulate	To devise or develop an idea or concept in a concise and systematic way.
Identify	Ascertain the origin, nature or definitive characteristics of something.
Interpret	To clarify/explain the meaning of something
Investigate	Carry out a systematic or formal inquiry to discover and examine the facts of (problem, options, incident, allegation, etc.) so as to establish the truth.
Justify	Provide a rationale for actions and/or decisions. Your rationale should be underpinned by research, academic theory, data analysis or experience.
Outline	Provide a general description/broad account/summary of something showing essential features/outline the case briefly but not the detail.
Plan	Make a plan, for example, a change plan or a project plan, before starting activities to achieve an aim.

Prepare	To make or develop something ready which will happen in the future
Present	To make clear to an audience of stakeholders the outcomes of a learner's studies/findings. (May take the form of a presentation)
Produce	To make, create or form something. Put together, assemble. leads to an outcome/result.
Profile	An outline giving a description of a role or organisation
Recommend	Put forward proposals, an alternative or suggestion(s) supported by a clear rationale appropriate to the situation/context.
Reflect	Consciously contemplate, appraise or give balanced consideration to an action or issue.
Relate	A clear connection between two or more concepts, theories, principles, processes or pieces of information.
Report	To prepare a detailed account or statement about an event or topic in a specified format
Research	A detailed study or investigation of a subject in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions.
Review	To examine, survey, or reconsider a subject, theory or item.
Specify	Identify or state a fact or requirement clearly and precisely in detail.
Summarise	Sum up or give a brief account of relevant information in your own words.
Use	The action of using something for a particular purpose.