Here is a list of some common Command Verbs that are used in written assignments and question/answer papers. If you are unsure of how to answer a question or assignment brief – check with your tutor.

Command Verb	Use
Assess	Evaluate or estimate the quality of a given topic to make an informed judgement, may include advantages and disadvantages.
Analyse	Separate information into component parts and to examine in detail; to identify possible causes and/or draw conclusions Make logical, connections between the components.
Compare	Identify similarities and/or differences
Consider	Review and respond to given information
Define	To state the precise meaning of something. What exactly does it mean?
Describe	Give an account of or set out characteristics or features. Might involve selecting some of the more important features. There should be a degree of detail
Discuss	Present key points about different ideas or strengths and weaknesses of an idea. There should be some element of balance, although not necessarily equal weighting.
Evaluate	Review information and bring it together to make judgements and conclusions from available evidence.
Explain	Set out purposes or reasons or make something clear in relation to a particular situation. An explanation requires understanding to be demonstrated.
Explain how	Give a detailed account of a process or way of doing something.
Give examples	Answers should include relevant examples in the context of the question.
Identify	Name or otherwise characterise (often similar to "list").
List	Give a selection of answers, as many as the question indicates.
Name	Identify using a recognised technical term.
Outline	Set out main the characteristics, points or features. To give general idea and overview without going into detail.
Show	Provide structured evidence to reach a conclusion.
State	Express in clear, brief terms.
Summarise	Brief statement of the main points.
Suggest (what/why/how)	Present a possible cause or solution. Apply knowledge to a situation to provide a reasoned explanation.