

# **What does the Question mean?**

## **Analyse**

Separate an argument, a theory, or a claim into its elements or component parts; to trace the causes of a particular event; to reveal the general principles underlying phenomena

## **Compare**

Look for similarities and differences between two or more things, problems or arguments. Perhaps, although not always, reach a conclusion about which you think is preferable.

## **Contrast**

Set in opposition to each other two or more things, problems or arguments in order to identify clearly their differences and their individual characteristics.

## **Criticise**

Identify the weaknesses of certain theories, opinions or claims, and give your judgement about their merit. Support your judgements with a discussion of the evidence and reasoning involved

## **Define**

Outline the precise meaning of a word or phrase. In some cases it may be necessary or desirable to examine different possible, or often used, definitions.

## **Describe**

Give a detailed or graphic account which it can include facts and your own impressions.

## **Discuss**

Investigate two sides of an argument giving evidence to support both sides.

## **Evaluate**

Make an appraisal of an idea, argument or theory. You can use your own value judgement but it must be backed up and justified.

## **Explain**

This is very similar to describe but you should also give the reasons why something had occurred.

## **Illustrate**

Explain or clarify something by the use of diagrams, figures or concrete examples.

## **Justify**

Show adequate grounds for a decision or a conclusion by supporting it with sufficient evidence and argument; answer the main objections that are likely to be made to it.

## **Outline**

Give the main features or the general principles of a subject, omitting minor details and emphasising its structure and arrangement.

## **Relate**

This can mean two things: 1) outline the sequence of events or 2) show how two things are connected to each other, how they affect each other and to what extent they are alike

## **State**

Outline briefly and clearly the facts of a situation. This does not call for argument, discussion or judgement.

## **Summarise**

Give a clear and concise account of the main points of a situation or argument. This does not need to be too detailed, or have evidence or examples.