







GCSE (9–1) Mathematics



Command words

Here are the most commonly used command words that you might see in different questions throughout your exam.

<p>Explain</p> <p>Write a sentence or a mathematical statement to show how you got to your answer or reached your conclusion.</p> 	<p>Show</p> <p>All working needed to get to a given answer or complete a diagram to show given information.</p> 	<p>Expand</p> <p>Remove brackets.</p> 	<p>Describe</p> <p>Write a sentence that gives the features of the situation.</p> 	<p>Justify</p> <p>Show all working and/or give a written explanation.</p> 												
<p>Draw</p> <p>Produce an accurate drawing (unless a sketch is being drawn).</p> 	<p>Find</p> <p>Some working will be needed to get to the final answer.</p> 	<p>Expand and simplify</p> <p>Remove brackets and then collect like terms.</p> 	<p>Complete</p> <p>Fill in missing values.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>x</th> <th>y</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>-3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>-1</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	x	y		-3	-1		0	1		3	2	5	<p>Solve</p> <p>Find the solution of an equation or inequality.</p> 
x	y															
	-3															
-1																
0	1															
	3															
2	5															
<p>Draw a sketch of... Sketch</p> <p>Produce a drawing that does not have to be drawn to scale or a graph that is drawn without working out each coordinate.</p> 	<p>Factorise</p> <p>Insert brackets by taking out common factors.</p> 	<p>Work out</p> <p>Some working will be needed in order to get the answer.</p> 	<p>Write down</p> <p>No working is needed.</p> 	<p>Solve algebraically</p> <p>Find the solution of an equation or inequality; algebraic manipulation must be shown.</p> 												
<p>Simplify</p> <p>Simplify the given expression.</p> 	<p>Factorise fully</p> <p>Insert brackets by taking out all the common factors.</p> 	<p>Change</p> <p>Usually convert from one unit to another; either using known metric unit conversions or the use of a conversion graph.</p> 	<p>Write</p> <p>No working needed for 1 mark questions. Working may be needed for questions with more than 1 mark.</p> 	<p>Prove</p> <p>More formal than 'show', all steps must be present. In the case of a geometrical proof, reasons must be given.</p> 												
<p>Simplify fully</p> <p>Simplify the given expression. Answer must be given in its simplest form.</p> 	<p>Express</p> <p>Re-write in another form, some working may be needed.</p> 	<p>Give a reason</p> <p>Must be clear and accurate reasons. If the reasons are geometrical then make sure you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ provide a reason for each stage of working (if required) ✓ use correct geometric terminology. 	<p>Calculate</p> <p>A calculator and some working will be needed.</p> 	<p>Prove algebraically</p> <p>Use algebra in the proof.</p> 												