

Key Exam Skills



Exam papers are designed to test certain skills, and every mark awarded is given for the demonstration of a skill.

Skills Tested by Exams



Knowledge

How well you know the meaning of the theories, concepts and ideas you have studied as part of your course.



Application

How well you can use the information provided to explain benefits and problems, or make calculations etc in a given context.



Analysis

How well you can develop ideas, apply theory, consider implications and make links between issues. You will need to identify and discuss in detail the likely causes and consequences that are relevant to the issues under discussion.



Evaluation

How well you can judge the overall importance or significance of different outcomes in a given situation. The ability to evaluate recognises that there is rarely one obvious or 'right' answer. The key to demonstrating this skill is the ability to identify and consider the pros and cons of each potential solution, and then make a judgement supported by the weight of evidence considered.

Key Exam Command Words

Knowledge

Define

Describe

State

Name

Application

Calculate

Using examples

Demonstrate

Apply

Analysis

Analyse

Explain why

Examine the reasons

Outline the

Evaluation

Evaluate

Assess

Discuss

To what extent