YEAR 10 STUDY SKILLS

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Understanding Command Words

Know exactly what a question is asking you to do

Name: _____ **Date:** _____ **Score:** _____ / 12

Match each command word to what it asks you to do.

1.	Describe	a)	give reasons or causes (how and why)
2.	Explain	b)	say what something is like
3.	Analyse	c)	break into parts and show how they relate
4.	Evaluate	d)	show similarities and differences
5.	Compare	e)	support an answer or decision with evidence
6.	Justify	f)	make a judgement about value, using criteria and evidence

Which command word fits each task?

7. Write about the similarities and differences between two poems.
   ⓐ describe ⓑ list ⓒ compare

8. Give the causes of World War I and how they led to war.
   ⓐ identify ⓑ list ⓒ explain

9. Decide how successful a policy was, using evidence.
   ⓐ describe ⓑ name ⓒ evaluate

10. Name three renewable energy sources.
    ⓐ evaluate ⓑ analyse ⓒ identify / list

Rewrite each answer so it matches the command word.

11. Q: EXPLAIN why the moon has phases. A: 'The moon has phases.'

12. Q: EVALUATE school uniforms. A: 'Uniforms are blue and grey.'

Quick rule

- Low-level words (identify, list, describe) need facts.
- High-level words (analyse, evaluate, justify) need reasons, evidence and a judgement.

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YEAR 10 STUDY SKILLS · ANSWER KEY

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Understanding Command Words

Know exactly what a question is asking you to do

Match each command word to what it asks you to do.

1. b) say what something is like
2. a) give reasons or causes (how and why)
3. c) break into parts and show how they relate
4. f) make a judgement about value, using criteria and evidence
5. d) show similarities and differences
6. e) support an answer or decision with evidence

Which command word fits each task?

7. c) compare
8. c) explain
9. c) evaluate
10. c) identify / list

Rewrite each answer so it matches the command word.

11. We see different amounts of the Moon's sunlit side as it orbits Earth, so its shape seems to change.
12. Uniforms reduce costs and peer pressure, but limit self-expression; overall they are beneficial because...

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