

Preparing for Paper 2

Make sure you understand what the command terms used in essay questions are asking you to do. The most common command terms are:

- **Compare and contrast**
Identify similarities and differences relating to a specific factor or event
- **Discuss**
Review a range of arguments
- **Evaluate**
Weigh up strengths and limitations. In an essay question this is often expressed as “successes and failures”
- **Examine**
Consider an argument or assumption and make a judgment as to the validity of either
- **To what extent**
This usually refers to a quotation or a statement, inviting you to agree or disagree with it