

Mathematics Directing Words

In Provincial Assessment Sector use, mathematics directing words have the following definitions, which students are required to know. These words will be bolded in the written-response questions.

Algebraically	Using mathematical procedures that involve variables or symbols to represent values
Analyze	Make a mathematical examination of parts to determine the nature, proportion, function, interrelationships, and characteristics of the whole
Classify	Arrange items or concepts in categories according to shared qualities or characteristics
Compare	Examine the character or qualities of two things by providing characteristics of both that point out their mutual similarities and differences
Conclude	Make a logical statement based on reasoning and/or evidence
Describe	Give a written account of a concept
Determine	Find a solution, to a specified degree of accuracy, to a problem by showing appropriate formulas, procedures, and/or calculations
Evaluate	Find a numerical value or equivalent for an equation, formula, or function
Explain	Make clear what is not immediately obvious or entirely known; give the cause of or reason for; make known in detail
Illustrate	Make clear by giving an example. The form of the example will be specified in the question: e.g., a word description, sketch, or diagram
Interpret	Provide a meaning of something; present information in a new form that adds meaning to the original data
Justify	Indicate why a conclusion has been stated, by providing supporting reasons and/or evidence that form a mathematical argument
Model	Represent a concept or situation in a concrete or symbolic way
Prove	Establish the truth or validity of a statement by giving factual evidence or logical argument
Sketch	Provide a drawing that represents the key features or characteristics of an object or graph
Solve	Give a solution to a problem
Verify	Establish, by substitution for a particular case or by geometric comparison, the truth of a statement