



Carleton Community High School

A Specialist Science with Mathematics School



Glossary of exam words

Word	Meaning
Compare	Are the things alike or are there important differences? Which do you think is best? Why?
Contrast	Look for differences.
Criticise	Use the evidence to support your opinion on the value of merit of ideas, facts or views of others.
Define	Give the meaning.
Describe	Write in detail.
Differentiate	Explain the difference
Discuss	Write about important aspects of the topic; are there two sides to the question? Consider the arguments for and against.
Distinguish	Explain the difference.
Evaluate	Judge the importance of success/failure.
Evaluate (Maths)	Find the numerical answer to a problem.
Explain	Make clear.
Illustrate	Give examples which make the point clear.
Interpret	Explain the meaning in your own words, for example you may have to interpret a graph.
Justify	Give reasons to support and argument of action.
Outline	Choose the most important aspects of a topic. Ignore the minor details.
Relate	Show the connection between things.
State	Write briefly the main point.
Summarise	Bring together the main points.