Command Terms for IB Biology

Objective 1

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Define** | Give precise meaning of a word, phrase, or physical quantity |
| **Draw** | Represent by means of a labelled, accurate diagram or graph, using a pencil. |
| **Label** | Add labels to a diagram |
| **List** | Give a sequence of names or other brief answers with no explanation |
| **Measure** | Find a value for a quantity |
| **State** | Give a specific name, value, or other brief answer without explanation or calculation |

Objective 2

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Annotate** | Add brief notes to a diagram or graph |
| **Apply** | Use an idea, equation, principle, theory, or law in a new situation |
| **Calculate** | Find a numerical answer showing the relevant stages in the working |
| **Describe** | Give a detailed account |
| **Distinguish** | Give the differences between two or more different items |
| **Estimate** | Find an approximate value for an unknown quantity |
| **Identify** | Find an answer from a given number of possibilities |
| **Outline** | Give a brief account or summary |

Objective 3

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Analyse** | Break down/Interpret data to reach conclusions |
| **Comment** | Give a judgment based on a given statement or result of a calculation |
| **Compare** | Give an account of similarities between two or more items; referring to both (all) of them throughout |
| **Compare and contrast** | Give an account of similarities and differences between two or more items; referring to both (all) of them throughout |
| **Construct** | Display information in a diagrammatic or graphical form |
| **Deduce** | Reach a conclusion from the information given |
| **Design** | Produce a plan, simulation, or model |
| **Determine** | Find the only possible answer |
| **Discuss** | Give a considered and balanced review that includes a range of arguments for and against the relative importance of various factors, or comparisons of alternative hypotheses. Opinions should be presented clearly and supported by evidence. |
| **Evaluate** | Assess the implications and limitations (weigh strengths and weaknesses) |
| **Explain** | Give a detailed account of causes, reasons, or mechanisms |
| **Predict** | Give an expected result |
| **Sketch** | Represent by means of a diagram or graph (labelled as appropriate). The sketch should give a general idea of the required shape or relationship, and should include relevant features. |
| **Solve** | Obtain an answer using algebraic and/or numerical methods |
| **Suggest** | Propose a solution, hypothesis or other possible answer |