

# INSTRUCTIONAL WORDS

| Instruction Word | What it Means  | Example Question  |
|------------------|--|---|
| Account for      | Give reasons for something (explain causes or factors).  | Account for the decline in newspaper circulation in Australia since 2010.                   |
| Analyse          | Focus on the 'how' and 'why'; break the topic into parts and examine relationships—don't just describe or summarise. | Analyse how supply-chain disruptions affected small retailers during the COVID-19 pandemic. |
| Compare          | Identify similarities and differences between two or more items.   | Compare Keynesian and Monetarist approaches to managing inflation.                          |
| Contrast         | Emphasise differences between two or more items.   | Contrast qualitative and quantitative methods in social research.                           |
| Criticise        | Assess the merit of something by considering both good points and bad points; give the results of your analysis.     | Criticise the use of standardised testing as a measure of school performance.               |
| Define           | State the precise meaning and key details; examples may be useful.   | Define 'ecosystem services' with reference to coastal environments.                         |
| Describe         | Recall or provide detailed information about characteristics, features, or processes.                                | Describe the stages of cellular respiration in eukaryotic cells.                            |
| Discuss          | Present a point of view after considering both sides; support with arguments and evidence.                           | Discuss whether social media improves or undermines democratic participation.               |
| Evaluate         | Consider strengths and weaknesses and make a judgement backed by evidence.   | Evaluate the effectiveness of carbon pricing in reducing emissions in Australia.            |
| Explain          | Clarify reasons, causes, and/or processes; show how and why something occurs.  | Explain how the principle of opportunity cost applies to household budgeting.               |
| Illustrate       | Use examples (or diagrams/figures) to demonstrate a point.   | Illustrate the concept of network externalities using contemporary tech platforms.          |

|                |   |  |
|----------------|---|--|
| Interpret      | Express the meaning in your own words; explain significance (examples may be useful).     | Interpret the trends shown in Figure 2 and comment on their implications for workforce planning. |
| List           | Write an itemised series, possibly in point form, without elaboration.                    | List three ethical issues associated with AI in healthcare.                                      |
| Outline        | Provide the main points and structure; omit minor details.                                | Outline the key arguments for universal basic income.  |
| Prove          | Provide factual evidence, examples, or logical reasons that demonstrate validity.         | Prove, using relevant case law, that duty of care can exist without a formal contract.           |
| Relate         | Tell the story in clear sequence, or show how things are connected/similar to each other. | Relate population growth trends to housing affordability in major cities.                        |
| Review         | Examine a subject critically, analysing and commenting on its main points.                | Review recent literature on micro-credentialling in higher education.                            |
| State          | Present the main points briefly in a clear sequence.                                      | State the assumptions underlying the Solow growth model.   |
| Summarise      | Give the main points or facts in condensed form.  | Summarise the key findings of the Royal Commission into Aged Care Quality and Safety.            |
| Support        | Provide evidence, reasoning and examples to back up your claim or argument                | Develop an argument on why this policy is needed. Support your argument with relevant evidence.  |
| To what extent | Consider both sides, make a judgement, and defend it (similar to evaluate/discuss).       | To what extent does climate litigation drive corporate decarbonisation?                          |
| Trace          | Relate the progress, development, or history of a subject in chronological order.         | Trace the evolution of privacy law in Australia from 1988 to the present.                        |