

Succeeding On Tests: Terms to Know

In order to answer questions correctly and effectively, you need to understand what the question means. Review the chart below for commonly used terms.

Direction Term	Meaning
Analyze	to systematically and critically examine all parts of an issue or event.
Classify or Categorize	to put people, things, or ideas into groups, based on a common set of characteristics.
Compare	to show how things are similar or alike
Contrast	to show how things are different
Describe	to present a sketch or impression; rich details, especially details that appeal to the senses, make a description more effective
Discuss	to systematically write about all sides of an issue or event
Evaluate	to make a judgment and support it with evidence
Explain	to clarify or make plain
Illustrate	to provide examples or to show with a picture or other graphic
Infer	to read between the lines or to use knowledge and experience to draw conclusions
Justify	to prove or to support a position with specific facts and reasons
Predict	to tell what will happen in the future, based on an understanding of prior events and behaviors
State	to briefly and concisely present information
Summarize	to give a brief overview of the main points of an issue or event
Trace	to present steps in a logical order