

# Task Verbs Used in Free-Response Questions

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The following task verbs are commonly used in the free-response questions:

**Compare:** Provide a description or explanation of similarities and/or differences.

**Define:** Provide a specific meaning for a word or concept.

**Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic.

**Develop an argument:** Articulate a claim and support it with evidence.

**Draw a conclusion:** Use available information to formulate an accurate statement that demonstrates understanding based on evidence.

**Explain:** Provide information about how or why a relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome occurs, using evidence and/or reasoning. Explain “how” typically requires analyzing the relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome, whereas explain “why” typically requires analysis of motivations or reasons for the relationship, process, pattern, position, situation, or outcome.

**Identify:** Indicate or provide information about a specified topic, without elaboration or explanation.