



# **‘Trigger Words’**

**What does your teacher mean?**

**Look at the words around the room  
and annotate each one, writing  
down what you think each one  
means**

# **‘Trigger Words’**

- These are all words that are often used in lessons. They encourage you to demonstrate your understanding of the task you have been asked to do and help you show the depth of your reading skills.**
- Being sure about what they mean can help you to understand exactly what type of response the teacher (or the examiner) is expecting you to give**
- Each time you are asked a question that includes one of these words, it should ‘trigger’ your ability to know exactly what type of response you need to give.**

# **The right definitions**

**In pairs, take one definition and see if you can now match it to the correct trigger word**

**Then go around the room and see if you agree with everyone's choices**

# What...

- A simple form of discussion.
- You are being asked to highlight key information appropriate to the question.
- These questions usually carry fewer marks.

# How...

- Requires you to select details relevant to the question.
- Then you need to identify what it is and comment, evaluate or make a judgement on what you have selected.
- Requires the use of evidence and a PEE/PEA paragraph.

# Compare...

- Looking closely at two or more things which have something in common in order to see how they are the same and how they are different.
- This is looking for an **analytical** response – PEE/PEA paragraphs should be used.

# Explain...

- Give reasons for **how** or **why** something happens – state reasons or justifications for something.
- You need to give examples and evidence.
- They are questions which normally carry a lot of marks and require you to treat the subject analytically
- Use PEE/PEA paragraphs.



# Comment...

- Put forward a point of view in a structured and reasoned way.
- Usually one sided but takes account of other points of view.

# Describe...

- A detailed account.
- You will need to tell the examiner, in your own words, what/ how/ or why something happens.
- Will often be linked to more marks and therefore you will be required to go into more depth in your answer and develop your key points using precise, clear language.

# Why...

- Involves you discussing and explaining a process, outcome or point of view.
- You need to use evidence to back up your ideas. Will involve a balanced approach usually.

# Discuss...

- Also worded as **'examine'** or **'consider.'**
- Give the main reasons **'for'** and **'against'** and come to a conclusion.

# Identify...

- Pick out/ select/ find/ highlight.

# Preparing for exams?

- If you are taking exams at the end of this year, take some time to learn these terms as part of your revision so that you know exactly what the examiner is looking for in your responses
- For those of you not taking exams yet, it is still very helpful for you to understand these trigger words as they will often be used in lessons; you can then show your understanding of the texts and ideas you are studying in all your subjects in exactly the right way, through both your oral and written responses