**Command terms with definitions**

Students should be familiar with the following key terms and phrases used in examination questions, which are to be understood as described below. Although these terms will be used frequently in examination questions, other terms may be used to direct students to present an argument in a specific way.

The assessment objectives (AOs) listed in the table are those referred to in the geography syllabus.

**Analyse** - AO2 Break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure.

**Annotate** - AO4 Add brief notes to a diagram or graph.

**Classify** - AO2 Arrange or order by class or category.

**Compare** - AO3 Give an account of the similarities between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

**Compare and contrast** - AO3 Give an account of similarities and differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

**Construct** - AO4 Display information in a diagrammatic or logical form.

**Contrast** - AO3 Give an account of the differences between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout.

**Define** - AO1 Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity.

**Describe** - AO1 Give a detailed account.

**Determine** - AO1 Obtain the only possible answer.

**Discuss** - AO3 Offer a considered and balanced review that includes a range of arguments, factors or hypotheses. Opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence.

**Distinguish** - AO2 Make clear the differences between two or more concepts or items.

**Draw** - AO4 Represent by means of a labelled, accurate diagram or graph, using a pencil. A ruler (straight edge) should be used for straight lines. Diagrams should be drawn to scale. Graphs should have points correctly plotted (if appropriate) and joined in a straight line or smooth curve.

**Estimate** - AO1 Obtain an approximate value.

**Evaluate** - AO3 Make an appraisal by weighing up the strengths and limitations.

**Examine** - AO3 Consider an argument or concept in a way that uncovers the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue.

**Explain** - AO2 Give a detailed account including reasons or causes.

**Identify** - AO1 Provide an answer from a number of possibilities.

**Justify** - AO3 Give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion.

**Label** - AO4 Add labels to a diagram.

**Outline** - AO1 Give a brief account or summary.

**State** - AO1 Give a specific name, value or other brief answer without explanation or calculation.

**Suggest** - AO2 Propose a solution, hypothesis or other possible answer.

**To what extent** - AO3 Consider the merits or otherwise of an argument or concept. Opinions and conclusions should be presented clearly and supported with empirical evidence and sound argument.