**IB Command Terms**

The IB uses these command terms throughout the syllabus to let you know what you are expected to do with each piece of information. PLEASE learn them early to get a head-start for your exams!

**Objective 1**

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

**Draw** Represent by means of a labelled, accurate diagram or graph, using a pencil.

**Label** Add labels to a diagram.

**List** Give a sequence of names or other brief answers with no explanation.

**Measure** Find a value for a quantity.

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

**Objective 2**

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

**Apply** Use an idea, equation, principle, theory or law in a new situation.

**Calculate** Obtain a numerical answer showing the relevant stages in the working.

**Describe** Give a detailed account.

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

**Estimate** Find an approximate value for an unknown quantity.

**Identify** Find an answer from a given number of possibilities.

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

**Objective 3, 4 & 5**

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

**Comment** Give a judgment based on a given statement or result of a calculation.

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

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

**Deduce** Reach a conclusion from the information given.

**Derive** Manipulate a mathematical relationship(s) to give a new equation or relationship.

**Design** Produce a plan, simulation or model.

**Determine** Find the only possible answer.

**Discuss** 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.

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

**Explain** Give a detailed account of causes, reasons or mechanisms.

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

**Predict** Give an expected result.

**Solve** Obtain an answer using algebraic and/or numerical methods.

**Suggest** Propose a hypothesis or other possible answer.