## Glossary of Terms for Essay and Exam Use

**Account** Explain, give reasons for clarify

Analyse Break down into component parts, study critically

Apply Relate to, using relevant/appropriate information

Appraise Determine the work, value or quality of

**Argue** Prove by presenting reasons, representing the case for and against

Assess Estimate/determine the value of

**Categorise** Place in a class/group with qualities in common

Classify Arrange in order, class

Compare Look for similarities and differences, perhaps reach conclusions about which is

preferable and justify this clearly

Compile Collect and arrange information from various sources

Contrast Bring out/show differences by setting in opposition

**Compare** Find some points of common ground between x and y and show where there is

and contrast or how they differ

**Criticise** Make judgment based on evidence of reasoning

**Defend** Support/uphold by argument

**Design** Work out the structure or form of something

Demonstrate Show/prove by reasoning of evidence

Describe Give an account of, write in detail about

**Devise** Compose, work out

**Discuss** Investigate or examine by argument and Debate, giving reasons for and against

Distinguish Present the essential features of two or more items which make them different from

each other

**Evaluate** Make an appraisal/judgment of value, validity or effectiveness

**Examine** Present in depth and look at implications.

**Explain** Give details about how and why

Formulate Plan or describe precisely and clearly

Illustrate Make clear and explicit, using carefully chose examples, figures, diagrams

Implement Carry out, perform, fulfil, put into effect

**Justify** Show adequate grounds for decisions or conclusions

**List** Enumerate, a brief item-by-item record

Outline Give a summary/overview

**Plan** Write out the method/steps necessary and the means to proceed

**Relate** Show how things are connected and to what extent they are alike or affect each other

Select Pick out as most suitable

State Present in a brief, clear way

**Synthesise** Create reshape ideas into an original piece of work

**Summarise** Give a concise clear review account of

**Trace** Follow the course or track and make a plan of