

Common Words used in History Examination Questions

- **Analyze:** Take apart an idea, concept or a process, and explain it step by step.
- **Comment:** explain the relevance of the fact or statement.
- **Compare:** Show likenesses and differences when you compare two events, theories, or processes.
- **Contrast:** Used for showing differences between two processes or theories.
- **Define:** Provide a definition of a key term.
- **Demonstrate:** provide proof of your answer by using an example.
- **Diagram:** draw a chart or other visual element to illustrate your points.
- **Differentiate:** Explain the difference.
- **Discuss:** Show how you understand both sides of an issue.
- **Examine:** explore a topic and comment on significant elements, events, or acts. Provide your opinion and explain how or why you came to your conclusions.
- **Explain:** Give a complete overview of the problem and solution for a particular issue.
- **Illustrate:** Use examples to show or explain a topic.
- **Interpret:** Interpretation of a subject calls for the ability to read between the lines and draw conclusions. You will be expected to explain the meaning of an act, action, or passage in an interpretation.
- **Justify:** If you are asked to justify something, you will be expected to use examples or evidence to show why it is correct.
- **List:** In list questions you must provide a series of answers.
- **Outline:** Provide an explanation with headings and subheadings.
- **Order:** Provide a chronological or value-based answer by listing several items (terms or events) in correct placement.
- **Prove:** To prove an answer, you must use evidence or reasoning to solve a problem.
- **Relate:** Relate could mean a few different things on an exam: 1) You could be asked to show a relationship between two events or items by discussing their similarities; or 2) You could be required to provide a written account of something.

- **Review:** you should recall and repeat all the most important elements or facts that you learned about a specific topic in essay form.
- **Trace:** To trace an event or process, go over it in detail and explain it step by step.