Languages at Stage 1 and Stage 2

Verbs to prompt the analysis of texts

When analysing texts students interpret both literal and inferred meanings to draw conclusions. Various verbs may be used in question stems that prompt analysis of texts. Teachers may wish to use the following suggestions when developing assessment tasks. When developing text analysis tasks also consider the quality of the text (e.g. complexity of language, depth of treatment of ideas etc.).

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| Verb | Definition | Example |
| compare | Give an account of the similarities and differences between two or more items. | *Compare the opinions of the two speakers in the text.* |
| contrast | Give an account of the differences between two or more items. | *Contrast the views of the two speakers in the text.* |
| define | Provide the meaning of a word or phrase.  If asked to ‘define in the context of the text’, provide the meaning of the word or phrase and relate this back to the text. | *Define ‘XXXXXXXXX’ in the context of the text.* |
| describe | Give a detailed account, including all relevant information (characteristics and features). | *Describe the tone of the text.* |
| discuss | Identify issues and provide reasons for and/or against. | *Discuss how effectively the author uses persuasive techniques to manipulate the reader of the text.* |
| evaluate | Assess the implications (the effect and significance) and limitations (the confines, boundaries, shortcomings) to judge the quality of a text. | *Evaluate the speaker’s customer service skills.* |
| explain | Give a clear account including causes and/or reasons. For every fact give either a reason or an example. | *Explain why the speaker chooses to XXXXXXXXX.* |
| identify | Recognise and name. | *Identify the relationship between the two speakers in the text.* |
| interpret | Draw meaning from a text(s). This may include inferred meaning. | *Interpret the phrase ‘XXXXXXXXXXX’ in the context of the text.* |
| justify/ support | Defend or uphold an idea, opinion, or belief using evidence. | *Justify your answer using evidence from the text.* |
| propose/ suggest | Put forward (e.g. a point of view, idea, argument, suggestion) for consideration or action. | *Propose an alternative title for the text.* |
| predict | Give an expected result. | *Predict the outcome of XXXXXXXXX based on the evidence presented in the text.* |
| recommend | Provide reasons in favour of a desired outcome. | *Recommend the successful candidate based on the candidates’ resumes.* |
| state | Give a specific name or a brief one-sentence answer. No supporting argument, reason or example is necessary. | *State the purpose of the text.* |
| summarise/ outline | Give a brief account or summary, including essential information only. | *Summarise the key message of the text.* |