Appendix A: Glossary of action verbs used

Verb	Description
Analyse	study or examine something in detail, break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure; identify parts and relationships, and to interpret information to reach conclusions
Annotate	add brief notes of explanation to a diagram or graph
Apply	select and use information and/or knowledge and understanding to explain a given situation or real circumstances
Appraise	evaluate, judge or consider text or a piece of work
Appreciate	recognise the meaning of, have a practical understanding of
Brief description/explanation	a short statement of only the main points
Argue	challenge or debate an issue or idea with the purpose of persuading or committing someone else to a particular stance or action
Calculate	obtain a numerical answer showing the relevant stages in the working
Classify	group things based on common characteristics
Comment	give an opinion based on a given statement or result of a calculation
Compare	give an account of the similarities between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout
Consider	describe patterns in data; use knowledge and understanding to interpret patterns, make predictions and check reliability
Construct	develop information in a diagrammatic or logical form; not by factual recall but by analogy or by using and putting together information
Contrast	detect correspondences between two ideas
Convert	change to another form

Criticise	state, giving reasons the faults/shortcomings of, for example, an experiment or a process
Deduce	reach a conclusion from the information given
Define	give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity
Demonstrate	prove or make clear by reasoning or evidence, illustrating with examples or practical application
Derive	arrive at a statement or formula through a process of logical deduction; manipulate a mathematical relationship to give a new equation or relationship
Describe	develop a detailed picture or image of, for example a structure or a process, using words or diagrams where appropriate; produce a plan, simulation or model
Determine	obtain the only possible answer by calculation, substituting measured or known values of other quantities into a standard formula
Differentiate	Identify what makes something different
Discuss	offer a considered, balanced review that includes a range of arguments, factors or hypotheses; opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence
Distinguish	make the differences between two or more concepts or items clear
Estimate	give a reasoned order of magnitude statement or calculation of a quantity
Evaluate (data)	collect and examine data to make judgments and appraisals; describe how evidence supports or does not support a conclusion in an inquiry or investigation; identify the limitations of data in conclusions; make judgments about the ideas, solutions or methods
Evaluate (ethical judgement)	collect and examine evidence to make judgments and appraisals; describe how evidence supports or does not support a judgement; identify the limitations of evidence in conclusions and make

	judgments about ideas, solutions or methods
Explain	give a detailed account including reasons or causes
Examine	consider an argument or concept in a way that uncovers the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue
Find	general term that may variously be interpreted as calculate, measure, determine etc.
Formulate	Express the relevant concept(s) or argument(s) precisely and systematically
Group	identify objects according to characteristics
Identify	recognise patterns, facts, or details; provide an answer from a number of possibilities; recognise and state briefly a distinguishing fact or feature
Illustrate	use examples to describe something
Infer	use the results of an investigation based on a premise; read beyond what has been literally expressed
Investigate	observe, study, or make a detailed and systematic examination, in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions
Interpret	use knowledge and understanding to recognise trends and draw conclusions from given information
Justify	give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion
List	provide a number of points, with no elaboration
Measure	quantify changes in systems by reading a measuring tool
Model	generate a mathematical representation (e.g., number, graph, equation, geometric figure) for real world or mathematical objects, properties, actions, or relationships
Order	describe items/systems based on complexity and/or order
Outline	give the main points; restrict to essentials

Plot	a graphical technique for representing a data set, usually as a graph showing the relationship between two or more variables.
Predict	give an expected result of an event; explain a new event based on observations or information using logical connections between pieces of information
Prove	use a sequence of logical steps to obtain the required result in a formal way
Provide evidence	provide data and documentation that support inferences or conclusions
Recognise	identify facts, characteristics or concepts that are critical (relevant/appropriate) to the understanding of a situation, event, process or phenomenon
Recall	remember or recognise from prior learning experiences
Relate	associate, giving reasons
Sketch	represent by means of a diagram or graph (labelled as appropriate); the sketch should give a general idea of the required shape or relationship, and should include relevant features
Solve	find an answer through reasoning
State	provide a concise statement with little or no supporting argument
Suggest	propose a solution, hypothesis or other possible answer
Synthesise	combine different ideas in order to create new understanding
Understand	have and apply a well-organised body of knowledge
Use	apply knowledge or rules to put theory into practice
Verify	give evidence to support the truth of a statement