COMMAND WORDS

The following list of command words covers the most commonly used in Sociology papers at A and AS Level. However, this list is not exhaustive and similar words may be used from time to time. The meanings come from the Ofqual approved list of command words. Meanings and the examples are taken from specimen papers for the new specifications. With this list we aim to illustrate how command words may be used in examination questions.

- **Analyse** - Separate information into components and identify their characteristics
- **Define** - Specify meaning
- **Evaluate** - Judge from available evidence
- **Explain** - Set out purposes or reasons
- **Outline** - Set out main characteristics
- **Outline and explain** - Set out main characteristics and develop these purposes or reasons
- **Using one example, briefly explain** - Give a brief account of

Phrases frequently used in conjunction with command words:

- **Applying material from an item** - Used as a preface to a command telling students to draw on material from a selected piece of information provided as part of the exam question