

KEY WORDS IN ESSAY QUESTIONS

1. **Compare**-bring out points of similarity and points of difference. *Compare the legislative branches of the state government and the national government.*
2. **Contrast**-bring out the points of difference. *Contrast the novels of Jane Austen and William Makepeace Thackeray.*
3. **Criticize**-state your opinion of the correctness or merits of an item or issue; criticism may either approve or disapprove. *Criticize the increasing use of executive agreement in international negotiations.*
4. **Define**-give meaning of a word or concept, place it in the class to which it belongs, and set it off from other items in the same class. *Define the term "archetype."*
5. **Describe**-give an account, tell about, or give a word picture. *Describe the pyramids of Giza.*
6. **Discuss**-talk over, consider from various points of view, or present different sides of. *Discuss the use of pesticides in controlling mosquitoes.*
7. **Enumerate**--name one after another or list in concise form. *Enumerate the great Dutch painters of the seventeenth century.*
8. **Evaluate**-give the good points and the bad ones, appraise, give an opinion, regard the value of, or discuss the advantages and limitations. *Evaluate the contributions of teaching machines.*
9. **Explain**-make clear, interpret, make plain, tell how to, or tell the meaning of. *Explain how people can, at times, trigger a full-scale rainstorm.*
10. **Interpret**-make plain, give meaning, give your thinking about, or translate. *Interpret the poetic line, "The sound of a cobweb snapping is the noise of my life. "*
11. **Illustrate**-use a word picture, a diagram, a chart, or a concrete example to clarify a point. *Illustrate the use of catapults in the amphibious warfare of Alexander.*
12. **Justify**-show good reasons, give your evidence, or present facts to support your position. *Justify the American entry into World War II.*
13. **Prove**--establish the truth of something by giving factual evidence or logical reasons. *Prove that in a full-employment economy, a society can get more out of one product only by giving up another product.*
14. **Summarize**-sum up or give the main points briefly. *Summarize the ways in which humans preserve food.*
15. **Trace**-follow the course, follow the trail of, or give a description of progress. *Trace the development of television in school instruction.*

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