

KEY WORDS

Meaning of Key Words in Language and Mathematics Questions on the Primary Division and Junior Division Assessments and the OSSLT

Key words in questions specify the type of response required. The key words used in EQAO assessments and tests are explained below. Students need to be made aware of the meaning of these words prior to their participation in an EQAO assessment or test.

COMPARE:

Language or mathematics: The response must state what is the same in the two things being compared or what is different between them. The comparison should include examples that show how the things are similar or different in one or more important ways.

DEFINE:

Language: The response must state the meaning of the word or phrase being defined. The response should include the meaning and sufficient detail to distinguish the meaning from similar words or phrases.

DESCRIBE:

Language or mathematics: Questions can ask for a description of something, someone or an idea or the sequence in which a series of things happens or a problem is solved. The response must use words to create a mental picture of what is being described for the reader. The response must give the characteristics and key features of what is being described in an organized manner.

DETERMINE:

Language or mathematics: The response must show a solution to a problem using logical reasoning or mathematics.

EXPLAIN/EXPLAIN YOUR THINKING:

Language: The response must provide specific and relevant supporting details and show the link between the explanation and the idea or point being explained to make the answer clear. The response must use words to make clear how something (or someone) works, what something (or someone) is like or why something happens or works the way it does (emphasis is on cause-effect relationships or step-by-step sequences).

Mathematics: The response must use mathematical symbols or words to make clear and understandable why a mathematical solution is correct.

IDENTIFY:

Language: Questions can ask for the name of a person, place or thing, or for a reason. The response must use information from the reading selection.

JUSTIFY:

Language or mathematics: The response must give reasons, evidence and/or calculations to show why an answer, argument or conclusion is correct.

LIST:

Language or mathematics: The response must include information in point form.

PREDICT:

Language or mathematics: The response must identify what may happen based on the information provided in the reading selection or mathematical question.

SHOW YOUR WORK:

Mathematics: The response must include all mathematical calculations made to arrive at the answer. The response should include words, numbers, graphs, diagrams, symbols and/or charts to show all the steps used to arrive at the answer.

SUMMARIZE:

Language: The response must concisely identify the main idea and give relevant details supporting it in the original text.

USE INFORMATION FROM THE READING SELECTION TO SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER:

Language: The response must use specific details from the reading selection to prove the main idea (point) of the answer.

USE YOUR OWN IDEAS TO SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER:

Language: The response should include the student's prior knowledge and experience of the topic of the reading selection to develop the main idea (point) of the answer.