WORKSHOP 1: UNDERSTANDING ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS
THE AVO CLUB

UNDERSTANDING A QUESTION
1. Identify the subject
2. Identify the instruction
3. Identify significant words

KEY WORDS

Analyse: Separate down into its component parts and show how they interrelate with each other.

Assess: Estimate the value of, looking at both the positive and negative attributes.

Comment: To make critical or explanatory notes/observations.

Compare: Point out the differences and the similarities. This question needs to be carefully organised to produce a logical answer.

Contrast: Point out the differences only and present the results in an orderly fashion.

Describe: Write down the information in the right order.

Discuss: Present arguments for and against the topic in question. In discussion questions you may also give your opinion.

Evaluate: Estimate the value of, looking at both the positive and negative attributes.

Explain: The word 'explain' means that you have to give reasons. You have to explain why rather than just define.

Justify: Here you will need to present a valid argument about why a specific theory or conclusion should be accepted.

Outline: Give the main features or general principles of a subject, omitting minor details and stressing structure.

Summarise: State the main features of an argument, omitting all that is only partially relevant.