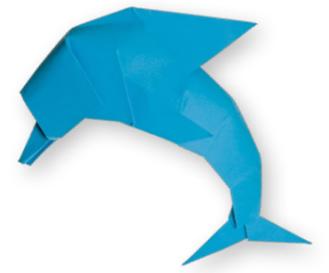


# GCSE (9-1) Mathematics

## Command words



Here are the most commonly used command words that you might see in different questions throughout your exam.

### Explain

Write a sentence or a mathematical statement to show how you got to your answer or reached your conclusion.



### Show

All working needed to get to a given answer **or** complete a diagram to show given information.



### Expand

Remove brackets.



### Describe

Write a sentence that gives the features of the situation.



### Justify

Show all working and/or give a written explanation.



### Draw

Produce an accurate drawing (unless a sketch is being drawn).



### Find

Some working will be needed to get to the final answer.



### Expand and simplify

Remove brackets and then collect like terms.



### Complete

Fill in missing values.

x	y
	-3
-1	
0	1
	3
2	5

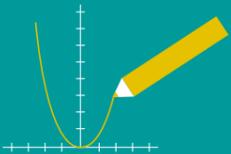
### Solve

Find the solution of an equation or inequality.



### Draw a sketch of... Sketch

Produce a drawing that does not have to be drawn to scale or a graph that is drawn without working out each coordinate.



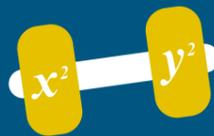
### Factorise

Insert brackets by taking out common factors.



### Work out

Some working will be needed in order to get the answer.



### Write down

No working is needed.



### Solve algebraically

Find the solution of an equation or inequality; algebraic manipulation **must** be shown.



### Simplify

Simplify the given expression.



### Factorise fully

Insert brackets by taking out **all** the common factors.



### Change

Usually convert from one unit to another; either using known metric unit conversions or the use of a conversion graph.



### Write

No working needed for 1 mark questions.

Working may be needed for questions with more than 1 mark.



### Prove

More formal than 'show', all steps must be present. In the case of a geometrical proof, reasons must be given.



### Simplify fully

Simplify the given expression. Answer must be given in its simplest form.



### Express

Re-write in another form, some working may be needed.



### Give a reason

Must be clear and accurate reasons. If the reasons are geometrical then make sure you:

- ✓ provide a reason for each stage of working (if required)
- ✓ use correct geometric terminology.

### Calculate

A calculator and some working will be needed.



### Prove algebraically

Use algebra in the proof.

