



Types of Essay Questions

There are five major types of questions.
Each type of question has its "key terms" that help the student answer it.

Questions	Description	Key Terms	Examples
Identification questions	These questions ask you for the bare facts only, to give a name, a date, or a phrase.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ List ▪ Identify ▪ Classify ▪ Give an example ▪ Briefly define ▪ Name ▪ State 	List the five key terms used for making up essay questions.
Description questions	These questions ask you to tell about the topic using a certain amount of detail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Describe ▪ Discuss ▪ Summarize ▪ Outline ▪ Trace ▪ Review 	Summarize the usage of the five key terms used for making up essay questions.
Relationship questions	These questions ask you to describe the relationships between two or more topics.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Compare ▪ Contrast ▪ Distinguish between ▪ Compare and contrast 	Compare and contrast the differences between the five key terms used for making up essay questions.
Demonstration questions	These questions ask you to show, not tell, why something is true or false. You must make arguments and give evidence, and your answer will be essay length.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Analyze ▪ Demonstrate ▪ Explain ▪ Interpret ▪ Discuss ▪ Justify ▪ Prove ▪ Show 	Explain why it is important to understand key terms when taking essay tests.
Evaluation questions	These questions ask for your judgment or opinion on the topic. You must justify and support your stand in a logical, consistent manner.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluate ▪ Assess ▪ Criticize ▪ Interpret ▪ Give your opinion ▪ Justify ▪ Defend 	Evaluate your ability to use key terms while taking an essay test.