



DECODE THE EXAM QUESTION

Make meaning visible. Keep the challenge.



THE IDEA

Decode the exam task verb, evidence source and required answer structure before attempting the response.



IN THE CLASSROOM

Choose two task verbs attached to the same subject material.

ACROSS SUBJECTS

Maths: distinguish calculate and justify. Humanities: distinguish describe and evaluate.

HOW TO USE IT

1



Decode the exam task verb, evidence source and required answer structure before attempting the response.

2



Compare two short answers that perform different thinking moves.

3



Match each answer to the appropriate command and explain the match.

4



Answer a fresh question, then check that the response actually performs the requested move.

DECODE THE EXAM QUESTION

In “Explain the difference between the results”, locate explain, identify which results are being compared and decide what mechanism or relationship the explanation must include. Do not mistake the prompt for a request to calculate only.



WHY IT WORKS

Directs attention to meaning, evidence and the connections in the text.



EAL UPGRADE

Remove the command glossary once learners can identify the thinking independently.



TRY IT TOMORROW

Change describe to explain or compare. Check that the response changes, not just its first word.



TEACHER LANGUAGE

“Show the relationship and explain the choice you made.”