

Action Verbs

Action Verb	Description
Analyse	study or examine something in detail, break down in order to bring out the essential elements or structure; identify parts and relationships, and to interpret information to reach conclusions
Annotate	add brief notes of explanation to a diagram or graph
Apply	select and use information and/or knowledge and understanding to explain a given situation or real circumstances
Appraise	evaluate, judge or consider text or a piece of work
Appreciate	recognise the meaning of, have a practical understanding of
Assess	estimate the value or importance or quality of
Argue	challenge or debate an issue or idea with the purpose of persuading or committing someone else to a particular stance or action
Articulate	clearly and fluently express an idea or feeling
Calculate	obtain a numerical answer showing the relevant stages in the working
Capture	represent or record in a lasting format
Classify	group things based on common characteristics
Collate	bringing together related information for critical comparison, research or use in creating a collection of work or ideas
Comment	give an opinion based on a given statement or result of a calculation
Communicate	use visual gestural, verbal or other signs to share meaning or exchange information. Interaction between sender and recipient; both work together to understand
Compare	give an account of the similarities between two (or more) items or situations, referring to both (all) of them throughout
Consider	describe patterns in data; use knowledge and understanding to interpret patterns, make predictions and check reliability
Construct	develop information in a diagrammatic or logical form; not by factual recall but by analogy or by using and putting together information
Contrast	detect correspondences between two ideas
Convert	change to another form
Create	process and give form to the topic of what is to be created using selected methods and material and/or to give the material used a new form
Criticise	state, giving reasons the faults/shortcomings of, for example, an experiment or a process
Critique	give a detailed analysis and assessment of something
Curate	to purposefully select items for others to consume and/or enjoy from among a number or range of items
Deduce	reach a conclusion from the information given
Define	give the precise meaning of a word, phrase, concept or physical quantity
Demonstrate	prove or make clear by reasoning or evidence, illustrating with examples or practical application
Derive	arrive at a statement or formula through a process of logical deduction; manipulate a mathematical relationship to give a new equation or relationship
Develop	advance a piece of work or an idea from an initial state to a more advanced state



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Differentiate	perceive the difference in or between things; form or mark differently from other such things; distinguish.
Discriminate	use good judgement to make careful or exact distinctions
Discuss	offer a considered, balanced review that includes a range of arguments, factors or hypotheses; opinions or conclusions should be presented clearly and supported by appropriate evidence
Distinguish	make the differences between two or more concepts or items clear
Draft	develop an idea or concept for planned work
Edit	collect, prepare, arrange, revise or correct work to form a unified sequence
Empathise	use awareness and focussed perception to create an intuitive connection to the object of the relationship in a way that goes beyond rational cognitive process.
Envision	recall memories of earlier visual impressions and create new internal ideas in a way that is comparable to sensory perception
Engage	enter into or become occupied by an activity or interest; to attract or hold interest and attention
Estimate	give a reasoned order of magnitude statement or calculation of a quantity
Evaluate (DATA)	collect and examine data to make judgments and appraisals; describe how evidence supports or does not support a conclusion in an inquiry or investigation; identify the limitations of data in conclusions; make judgments about the ideas, solutions or methods
Evaluate (ethical judgement)	collect and examine evidence to make judgments and appraisals; describe how evidence supports or does not support a judgement; identify the limitations of evidence in conclusions; make judgments about the ideas, solutions or methods
Evidence	provide information indicating if something is true, or valid or to establish facts in investigation
Explain	give a detailed account including reasons or causes
Examine	consider an argument or concept in a way that uncovers the assumptions and interrelationships of the issue
Experience	to perceive an object on the basis of aesthetic considerations and to establish a direct personal relationship
Experiment	a procedure undertaken to make a discovery, test a hypothesis, or demonstrate a known fact
Experiment (artistic)	approach creating either playfully or systematically but always with an unknown outcome
Explore	to think or talk about something in order to find out more about it
Extrapolate	ability to infer new information from similar or previously experienced or observed information
Find	general term that may variously be interpreted as calculate, measure, determine etc.
Formulate	express the relevant concept(s) or argument(s) precisely and systematically
Group	identify objects according to characteristics
Identify	recognise patterns, facts, or details; provide an answer from a number of possibilities; recognise and state briefly a distinguishing fact or feature



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Illustrate	use examples to describe something
Illustrate (Graphically)	use drawings or examples to describe something
Infer	use the results of an investigation based on a premise; read beyond what has been literally expressed
Investigate	observe, study, or make a detailed and systematic examination, to establish facts and reach new conclusions
Interpret	use knowledge and understanding to recognise trends and draw conclusions from given information
Interpret (aesthetic)	assign meaning to objects on the basis of observations and contextual knowledge; translate the effect of an image into words by reasoning and explaining on the basis of reflection and understanding why the image is how it is and is not different
Judge	formulate a justified statement based on criteria
Justify	give valid reasons or evidence to support an answer or conclusion
List	provide a number of points, with no elaboration
Locate	pertaining to establishing the place of an object or idea within a known sequence
Measure	quantify changes in systems by reading a measuring tool
Model	generate a mathematical representation (e.g., number, graph, equation, geometric figure) for real world or mathematical objects, properties, actions, or relationships
Order	describe items/systems based on complexity and/or order
Outline	give the main points; restrict to essentials
Perceive	use the senses to create internal ideas based on external stimuli (e.g. subjects, processes, situations)
Plot	chart, scheme or map indicating the disposition and function of objects; plan or scheme for the constitution or accomplishment of something
Predict	give an expected result of an event; explain a new event based on observations or information using logical connections between pieces of information
Present	a specific form of communication which makes images/objects perceivable for others
Produce	to make, create or bring about by intellectual or physical effort something for consideration or exhibition
Prove	use a sequence of logical steps to obtain the required result in a formal way
Question	interrogative expression to open a discussion
Realise	implement, execute or put into practice an idea or a product or a draft
Recognise	identify facts, characteristics or concepts that are critical (relevant/appropriate) to the understanding of a situation, event, process or phenomenon
Record	to cause ideas, observations, visual images, sound, data, etc. to be set down or registered on something in reproducible form
Respond	react to a stimulus which may be: critical, emotional, aesthetic or contextual based, or a combination of these



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Recall	remember or recognise from prior learning experiences
Relate	associate, giving reasons
Represent	Bringing clearly and distinctly to mind by use of description or imagination
Research	the study of materials and sources in order to establish facts and reach new conclusions; revision of accepted theories or laws in the light of new facts
Review	looking over or through material in order to correct, improve or revise
Sketch	represent by means of a diagram or graph (labelled as appropriate); the sketch should give a general idea of the required shape or relationship, and should include relevant features
Solve	find an answer through reasoning
State	provide a concise statement with little or no supporting argument
Suggest	propose a solution, hypothesis or other possible answer
Synthesise	combine different ideas in order to create new understanding
Translate	express the sense of something in terms of something else or by a different medium or mode of expression
Understand	have and apply a well-organised body of knowledge
Use	apply knowledge or rules to put theory into practice. Employ something in a targeted way.
Value	recognise the conceptual and creative achievement that led to the specific work. Appreciate the diversity of different solutions and forms of expression
Verify	give evidence to support the truth of a statement
Visualise	make something visible to the mind or imagination something that is abstract or not visible or present to the eye

NCCA, 2019, Leaving Certificate Art specification, p.31-35



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