

# OSSLT Key Terms / Phrases in Test Questions

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## Compare

The response (your answer) must state **what is the same** in the two things being compared or **what is different** between them. The comparison should include **examples** that show **how the things are similar** or **different** in one or more important ways.

## Define

The response (your answer) must state the **meaning of the word** or **phrase** being defined. The response should include the meaning and **sufficient detail** to **distinguish** the meaning **from similar words** or **phrases**.

## Describe

Questions can ask for a description of something, someone or an idea or the sequence in which a series of things happens or a problem is solved. The response (your answer) must use words to **create a mental picture** of what is being described in an **organized manner**.

## Determine

The response (your answer) must show a **solution** to a **problem** using **logical reasoning**.

## Explain

The response (your answer) must provide specific and relevant supporting details and show the link between the explanation and the idea or point being explained to make the answer clear. The response must use words to make clear how something (or someone) works, what something (or someone) is like, or why something happens or works the way it does (emphasis is on cause-effect relationships or step-by-step sequences).

## Identify

Questions can ask for the **name** of a **person**, **place**, or **thing**, or for a reason. The response (your answer) must use information from the reading selection.

## **Justify**

The response (your answer) must **give reasons, evidence** and/or calculations to show **why an answer**, argument or conclusion is **correct**.

## **List**

The response (your answer) must include **information in point form**.

## **Predict**

The response (your answer) must identify **what may happen** based on the information provided in the reading selection.

## **Summarize**

The response (your answer) must **concisely identify the main idea** and **give relevant details supporting it** in the original text.

## **Use Information from The Reading Selection to Support Your Answer**

The response (your answer) must use **specific details** from the reading selection to **prove the main idea** (point) of the **answer**.

## **Use Your Own Ideas to Support Your Answer**

The response (your answer) should include **your prior knowledge** and **experience** of the topic of the reading selection **to develop the main idea** (point) of the answer.