AO2 Revision: Application & Understanding Command Words, Example Questions & Tips

Command Word	Description	
Calculate / Determine	Work out the value of something using numbers given in the question.	
Compare	Identify similarities and/or differences between different things.	
Explain	Set out purposes or reasons	
Give	Produce an answer from recall	
How/What/When/ Where/Which/Why	Used for direct questions	
Identify	Name or otherwise characterise	
Complete/Illustrate/ Draw	Demonstrate understanding of the issues or concepts through the use of relevant examples or diagrams	
Suggest	Present a possible case/solution/explanation to a new situation	

Sentence Starters: This is because... As a result of... Therefore... One reason for this is... The effect of...is...

This happens due to... The change in...shows that... An example of this is... Compared to..., this gas... If ..., then ... will happen. This reaction occurs because ...

volume of the ga	ı gas syringe. V in the syringe:	
	100 40 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50 50	
Q: Explain why m	etals conduct el	•

Q: A student investigated the temperature cho			
when metal X was added to copper sulfate			
solution.			
Give two variables the student should keep the same in this investigation. (2 marks)			

Q: Lithium reacts with chlorine to produce lithium chloride. Describe what happens to a lithium atom and to a chlorine atom when they react. (3 marks)

Quick Tips

- Show working clearly in calculations.
- Explain trends using atomic structure.
- Apply known ideas to new scenarios.
- Practise interpreting practical instructions.



• Underline key variables when reading a question.