

QUESTION WORDS IN LIFE SCIENCE



ENGLISH	ISIXHOSA	AFRIKAANS	DEFINITION	HOW TO ANSWER	EXAMPLE Q
ANALYSE	Hlalutya utolike	Analiseer	Examine and interpret.	Often you will need to examine a diagram/graph and to explain what you see by providing reasons from the image. You must use what you observe in your answer.	Analyse the trend of the graph.
CALCULATE	Bala	Bereken	A numerical answer is needed.	In general always show your working out and give a unit of measurement in your answer.	Calculate the average.
CLASSIFY	Hlela / beka ngokwamaqela	Klassifiseer	Group things based on common characteristics.	Often we will ask to classify based on a diagram, so use what you can see. Sometimes you will not always be able to see a structure so you will need to know these characteristics.	How do we classify plants?

ENGLISH	ISIXHOSA	AFRIKAANS	DEFINITION	HOW TO ANSWER	EXAMPLE Q
COMPARE	Thelekisa	Vergelyk	Show either similarities or differences	Often this will be a table answer but when writing the comparison your answers must complement each other.	Compare animal cells with plant cells.
DEFINE	Chaza intsingiselo	Definieer	Give a clear meaning.	Give a set definition that is often word for word.	Define homeostasis.
DESCRIBE	Cacisa	Beskryf	State in words the main points of a structure/process/phenomenon	You must provide the How, Where, When and Why. Often these questions require lots of detail and in the correct sequence.	Describe the process of fertilisation.
DETERMINE	Qinisekisa	Bepaal	To answer by examining something.	Look at the diagram/graph provided and come to a conclusion while providing a reason for your answer.	Determine the trend of the graph.

ENGLISH	ISIXHOSA	AFRIKAANS	DEFINITION	HOW TO ANSWER	EXAMPLE Q
DIFFERENTIATE	Ahlula	Onderskei	Use differences.	Often you will need to explain or list the differences between structures/diseases/processes. (similar to compare)	Differentiate between active and passive transport.
DISCUSS	Xoxa	Bespreek	Consider all info and come to a conclusion.	Take the results and provide reasons for why they may have happened.	Discuss the results of the experiment.
EXPLAIN	Chaza	Verduidelik	Provide a reason.	Often this answer will have a "cause" and "effect" structure. It will contain the How and Why. (Often confused with describe)	Explain fertilisation.
IDENTIFY	Chonga / ukwazi ukuba into iyintoni	Identifiseer	Name the essential characteristics.	Select visible structures/processes from the diagram given. Normally this question requires you to label something.	Identify the process at A.

ENGLISH	ISIXHOSA	AFRIKAANS	DEFINITION	HOW TO ANSWER	EXAMPLE Q
LABEL	xela / leyibhela	Byskrif	Identify on a diagram or drawing.	Provide names for processes, structures, regions or products.	Label the diagram of the heart.
LIST	Yenza uluhlu	Lys	List items but with no further detail.	Often these questions require single word answers. Remember if it asks for 2 but you give 3 they will only mark the first 2 answers.	List the requirements for gaseous exchange.
MENTION	khankanya	Noem	Refer to relevant points	These answers require no further explanation just a statement.	Where does photosynthesis occur and mention the organelle used.
NAME	Xela / biza igama / khankanya	Noem	Give the name (proper noun) of something	One word answers. Remember if they ask to name 2 things but you name 4 they can only mark the first 2.	Name TWO organs found in the digestive system.
STATE	Xela / chaza	Se (bracket on the "e")	Write down information without further discussion.	Short answers are given, normally one sentence or a phrase. There is no further explanation needed.	State the purpose of chlorophyll.

ENGLISH

ISIXHOSA

AFRIKAANS

DEFINITION

HOW TO ANSWER

EXAMPLE Q

SUGGEST

Bonisa

Stel voor

Offer an explanation or solution.

These often higher-order questions require you to think above what has been provided and to make link between ideas.

Suggest TWO reasons for the results seen in the experiment.

TABULATE

Hlela
ngokwemiqolo/
ngokwemihlathi

Tabuleer

Draw a table

The answers in the table must read left to right and must complement each other. In other words they must consist of the same concept.

Tabulate the differences between ligaments and tendons.