IB Physics Standard Level

Action Terms

These action terms indicate the depth of treatment required for a given assessment statement. These action terms will be used in examination questions, so it is important that students are familiar with the following definitions.

Objective 1

Define	Give the precise meaning of a word, phrase or physical quantity.
Draw	Represent by means of pencil lines.
Label	Add labels to a diagram
List	Give a sequence of names or other brief answers with no explanation.
Measure	Find a value for a quantity.
State	Give a specific name, value or other brief answer without explanation or calculation.

Objective 2

Annotate	Add brief notes to a diagram or graph.
Apply	Use an idea, equation, principle, theory or law in a new situation.
Calculate	Find a numerical answer showing the relevant stages in the working (unless instructed not to do so).
Describe	Give a detailed account.
Distinguish	Give the differences between two or more different items.
Estimate	Find an approximate value for an unknown quantity.
Identify	Find an answer from a given number of possibilities.
Outline	Give a brief account or summary.

Objective 3

Analyse	Interpret data to reach conclusions.
Comment	Give a judgment based on a given statement or result of a calculation.
Compare	Give an account of similarities and differences between two (or more) items, referring to both (all) of them throughout.
Construct	Represent or develop in graphical form.
Deduce	Reach a conclusion from the information given.
Derive	Manipulate a mathematical relationship(s) to give a new equation or relationship.
Design	Produce a plan, simulation or model.
Determine	Find the only possible answer.
Discuss	Give an account including, where possible, a range of arguments for and against the relative importance of various factors, or comparisons of alternative hypotheses.
Evaluate	Assess the implications and limitations.
Explain	Give a detailed account of causes, reasons or mechanisms.
Predict	Give an expected result.
Show	Give the steps in a calculation or derivation.
Sketch	Represent by means of a graph showing a line and labelled but unscaled axes but with important features (for example, intercept) clearly indicated.
Solve	Obtain an answer using algebraic and/or numerical methods.
Suggest	Propose a hypothesis or other possible answer.