

# Biology Exam Terms Made Simple

"**Define**" - write a sentence saying what the word means, give an example or draw a diagram if it helps

E.g. "**Define** Cell" - a cell is the smallest unit of life e.g. a blood cell

"**Function**" - say what the job of the object is

E.g. "Give one **function** of the kidneys" - The kidneys get rid of waste urea from our bodies

"**State**" - give the word/phrase asked for, nothing else

E.g. "**State** the function of a chloroplast" - Photosynthesis

"**Explain**" - tell in your own words how something happened

E.g. "**Explain** how you varied pH in the enzyme experiment" - A different pH buffer was added to each graduated cylinder.

"**List**"/ "**Give**" - write the words under one another

E.g. "**List/Give** the products of photosynthesis" -  
glucose  
oxygen

"**Outline**"/ "**write a short note**" - write the main points in a list using diagrams with it if you can

E.g. "**Outline** the stages in Nutrition" -

Ingestion: taking in of food into the mouth

Digestion: the breaking down of food into smaller pieces

Absorption: the movement of digested food into the bloodstream

Assimilation: the taking of digested food particles into body cells

Egestion: the getting rid of undigested food out of the body

"and" - do the two things asked for

E.g. "Define excretion and egestion" -

Excretion is the removal of waste products of metabolism

Egestion is the removal of undigested food from the organism

"or" - do one of the things asked for

E.g. "Define excretion or egestion" -

Excretion is the removal of waste products of metabolism

"Describe" - give a full and detailed account, using labelled diagrams if possible

E.g. "Describe physical and chemical digestion in the mouth"

In the mouth the teeth work on food in different ways, describe each tooth and its function, also draw a diagram of each.

The only chemical digestion in the mouth is caused by the enzyme amylase breaking down starch into maltose.

The physical digestion increases surface area for the enzyme amylase to work on

"Distinguish between" - write a sentence for each making sure you show the difference between the two words

E.g. "Distinguish between excretion and egestion" -

Excretion is the removal of waste products of metabolism

Egestion is the removal of undigested food from the organism

"Name" - just write the word nothing else

E.g. "Name one cell organelle that contains dna" - nucleus

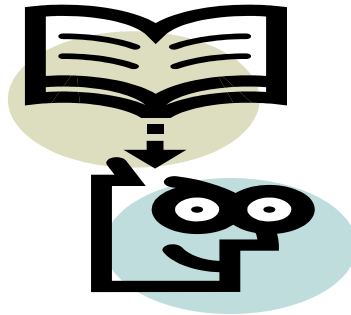
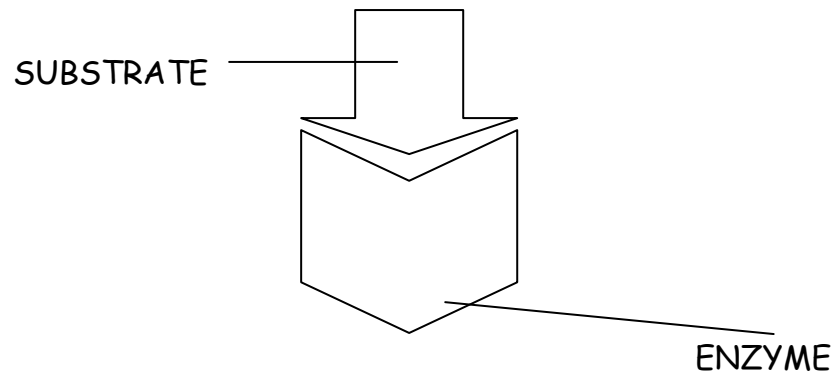
"Why" - explain the reason behind the word or process

E.g. "Why is photosynthesis an anabolic process" - because it takes small molecules and makes them into larger ones using energy in the process

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**"Draw a labelled diagram"** - in pencil draw a diagram, name the parts by using lines to connect (touch) the parts and the name. Do not use arrows.

E.g. **"Draw a labelled diagram** of an enzyme and its corresponding substrate" -



**REMEMBER:**  
**ALWAYS GIVE AN EXAMPLE and DRAW A DIAGRAM IF YOU CAN**