

Identify, Describe and Explain

In assessments learners are often required to either identify, describe or explain. This is sometimes misinterpreted. The following provides clarity.

Identify

- Point something out
- State what it is
- Recognise
- Name what it is

Describe

- Add some detail
- Generally requires at least sentences to be used
- Say what it is like or what happened

Explain

- Need to demonstrate understanding
- To give a reason
- The how and why



Example

Identify

Face mask

Describe

A light weight blue disposable paper mask with elastic straps.

Explain

This mask is designed to help prevent the user getting respiratory infections.

They filter out droplets and particles.

They also help prevent you passing on or spreading infection to others.