

DO ANSWER THE QUESTION.....

What does the examiner mean by:

<i>State</i>	A brief sentence giving the essential facts - no explanation is required
<i>Define</i>	Use a word equation - if you use symbols you must state what each symbol represents
<i>List</i>	Simply a series of bullet points - no need to write sentences
<i>Outline</i>	Probably a process - a logical series of bullet points or phrases will suffice
<i>Describe</i>	For an experiment a diagram is essential - then give the main points concisely
<i>Explain</i>	Use correct 'physics' terminology - your answer should reflect the marks available
<i>Draw</i>	Diagrams should be in pencil so that you can rub out as necessary - draw neatly and label fully, but don't waste time - remember it is not an Art exam!
<i>Sketch</i>	Usually a graph, but graph paper not necessary - however, the axes should be labelled including data if given, the origin must be shown if appropriate and the general shape of the expected line should be drawn
<i>Show that</i>	Show how to get a given answer (so that you can proceed with the next bit) - all your working should be shown and your answer should be given to more significant figures than those given (to prove you have done the calculation!)
<i>Calculate</i>	A numerical answer is obviously required - make sure you show all your working and give units at every stage; sig.figs. of final answers should reflect the given data, but keep each stage in your calculator to prevent excessive rounding down
<i>Estimate</i>	A calculation in which you have to produce a sensible value for one of the physical quantities needed - think, does this give a reasonable answer?
<i>Suggest</i>	There is often no single correct answer - credit is given for good reasoning, but it must be correct physics!
<i>Comment</i>	Often asked for towards the end of a practical exercise - if possible this should be quantitative; relate your answer to the number of marks/how much space there is
<i>Discuss</i>	Need to sustain an argument, giving evidence for and against, possibly referring to more than one area of physics and/or using appropriate data to justify your answer