

Evaluate

Primary cognitive verb toolkit

What is evaluating?

To evaluate is to examine and make judgements about the merit of ideas, artworks, systems, methods or solutions. It involves making a judgement using pre-determined criteria. To evaluate a design concept is to review the criteria the concept was designed to meet, and consider the strengths, limitations and implications of the design. To evaluate a mathematical solution is to review the calculations necessary to arrive at the solution and the context of the problem.

This term is described in the notes section of the standard elaborations:

Term	Description
evaluate	examining and judging the merit or significance of something

Cognitive verb use in the Australian Curriculum

The cognitive verb evaluate appears in various learning area achievement standards and content descriptions in the Australian Curriculum. The table below shows the use of evaluate across the whole Australian Curriculum.

Evaluate in the Australian Curriculum achievement standards (AS) and content descriptions (CD)																
Year level	English	Health and Physical Education	HASS	History	Geography	Civics and Citizenship	Economics and Business	Mathematics	Science	Design and Technologies	Digital Technologies	Dance	Drama	Media Arts	Music	Visual Arts
Prep										AS CD	AS					
Year 1										AS CD	AS					
Year 2										AS CD	AS					
Year 3	CD									AS CD				CD		
Year 4								AS CD		AS CD						
Year 5			CD	CD	CD	CD	CD			AS CD						
Year 6	CD		AS CD	CD	AS CD	AS CD	AS CD			AS CD				CD		

Cognitive process

The cognitive verb evaluate is part of the knowledge utilisation category of cognitive process.

Cognitive skills to help evaluate are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• examine• determine• judge.	Cognitive skills that follow evaluate are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• appraise• justify• discuss.
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Learning area/subject examples include, but are not limited to:

Year level	Learning area	Achievement standard	Content description
Prep–Year 2	Technologies	Students evaluate their ideas, information and solutions on the basis of personal preferences and provided criteria including care for the environment.	
Year 3	English		Use comprehension strategies to build literal and inferred meaning and begin to evaluate texts by drawing on a growing knowledge of context, text structures and language features (ACELY1680)
Year 4	Mathematics	Students describe different methods for data collection and representation and evaluate their effectiveness.	
Year 5	History		Evaluate evidence to draw conclusions (ACHASS101)
Year 6	English		Analyse and evaluate similarities and differences in texts on similar topics, themes or plots (ACELT1614)

More information

This factsheet is part of a suite of resources to support teachers in the explicit teaching and assessment of students' thinking. The suite of resources includes cognitive verb overviews, cognitive verb year-level overviews and categories of common cognitive verbs. The cognitive verbs are categorised using Marzano and Kendall's (2007) four levels of cognitive process: retrieval, comprehension, analysis and knowledge utilisation.

The suite of resources can be found here: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/aciq/frequently-used-resources/cognitive-verbs.

Reference: Marzano, R & Kendall, J 2007, *The New Taxonomy of Educational Objectives*, Corwin Press, Thousand Oaks, CA