

BTEC marks the same content at three levels - the command verb tells you how far to push. Climb the ladder: describe, then analyse, then judge.

PASS - show you understand

Describe	Give a clear account with all the relevant features.	<i>"The main features are... This means..."</i>
Explain	Give reasons, or say how and why something happens.	<i>"This happens because... As a result..."</i>

MERIT - show how things connect

Analyse	Break the topic into parts; show how they link and affect the business.	<i>"One factor is... which leads to... meaning for the business..."</i>
Assess	Weigh up the factors and say which matter most.	<i>"The most important factor is... because..., whereas... matters less..."</i>

DISTINCTION - reach a supported judgement

Evaluate	Weigh strengths and weaknesses and reach a judgement backed by evidence.	<i>"Overall, ... is stronger because...; however, it depends on..."</i>
Justify	Give reasons or evidence to support an opinion, or to show something is right or reasonable.	<i>"This is justified because the evidence shows...; it is appropriate here because..."</i>

How to climb a band

Most Pass answers stall because they stop at **describe**. To reach Merit, add 'which leads to...' and connect it to the business. To reach Distinction, end with a supported judgement: what you conclude, and what it depends on.

Most units follow this ladder, but check your own brief: Assess turns up at Distinction as well as at Merit.

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