Categories of cognitive verbs

Syllabus implementation resource

	Retrieval and comprehension	Analytical processes	Knowledge utilisation
Category description	the activation and transfer of knowledge from permanent memory to working memory, and the storage of critical features of information in permanent memory	involves the reasoned extension of knowledge	about using knowledge — involves the processes individuals use when they wish to accomplish a specific task
Skills	• recognising • recalling • executing • integrating • symbolising	• matching • classifying • analysing error • generalising • specifying	• decision-making • problem-solving • experimental inquiry • investigating
Cognitive verbs	calculate (e.g. numerical answer; mathematical processes)	analyse	appraise
	clarify	apply	appreciate
	comprehend (meaning)	categorise	argue
	construct (e.g. a diagram)	classify	assess
	define	compare	comment (make a judgment)
	demonstrate	consider	conduct (e.g. investigations)
	describe	contrast	construct (e.g. an argument)
	document	critique	create (e.g. a unique product/ artefact; language texts; meaning)
	execute	deduce	decide/determine
	explain	derive	design (e.g. a methodology, an artefact, a proposal)
	identify	determine	develop (e.g. a strategy, product or process)
	implement (e.g. a plan, proposal)	differentiate	devise
	recall	discriminate	discuss/explore
	recognise (e.g. features)	distinguish	evaluate
	select	identify errors/problems	experiment/test (e.g. ideas, methods)
	sketch	infer/extrapolate	express (e.g. an artistic idea or viewpoint)
	summarise	interpret (e.g. meaning)	generate/test (e.g. hypotheses)
	symbolise (e.g. through diagram, illustration, model)	judge	hypothesise/propose (e.g. arguments, solutions, ideas)
	understand	organise/sequence/structure	investigate/examine (e.g. an argument, concept)
	use	reflect (on)	justify/prove (e.g. an argument, statement or conclusion)
			make decisions
			manipulate (e.g. language texts; skills; technologies)
			modify
			predict (e.g. a result)
			realise/resolve (e.g. artistic works)
			solve (e.g. problems)
			synthesise