MCA-II Test Review Key Words

These words are classic verbs used in testing questions. The meaning of these words will help you better understand and answer the questions and the writing prompts. Know what they mean!

Analyze	Break apart the information, study the pieces, and figure out how the parts are related
Apply	Use the information in the reading; put it into effect
Clarify	Make the information more clear and understandable; simplify
Classify	Arrange information in categories
Compare & Contrast	State how items are the same AND how they are different
Conclude	Make a logical and reasonable statement based upon the information
Describe	State details and specific information
Determine	Figure out from information in the text; decide based on facts and logical reasoning
Elaborate	Give additional information and/or details; expand
Evaluate	Judge, figure out, or decide on the importance or quality of information
Examine	Look at the evidence
Explain	Make information clear and understandable using details of who, what, where, when, why, and how
Formulate	Create or develop an idea or statement based upon the information inthe text; come to a conclusion
Generate	Form or create ideas or statements
Highlight	Emphasize or point out the most important points
Illustrate	Make your answer clear and understandable by using examples
Infer	Use logic and reason to make a conclusion based upon the evidence/details in the text; "read between the lines"; use clues in the text to "solve the puzzle"

Inform	Give proof of your knowledge and understanding; make the reader aware
Interpret	Provide/give the meaning of details in the text; offer an explanation (often answers the question why)
Justify	Defend or prove that you are (or the information/argument is) right/correct/valid
Order/Outline	Give the main ideas; focus on the important details
Persuade	Convince someone to think, believe, or act in a certain way
Predict	Make an educated guess based on the information in the text; what is likely to happen next?
Respond	Answer; react to information in the text
Summarize/Paraphrase	Use your own words to state the main points of the text/argument
Support	Give examples; back up with specifics
Synthesize	Combine information from multiple sources to show a new, improved understanding of the topic/text/argument; combine numerous ideas into one clear statement that reflects aspects of each of the original ideas
Trace	List in steps or chronological order; follow an author's or article's ideas in a logical order