This research was conducted to examine instructional verbs used in examination questions especially essay forms. The scope of study covered various aspects dealing with the frequency of instructional verb use, type of instructional verbs, and sentence patterns used in examinations. The data were collected from a number of field of studies namely, engineering, animal husbandary/fisheries, economics, social and political sciences and letters. As a research sample, 10 examination papers were selected from each field of study. The results show that the use of instructional verb ‘explain’ is very dominant (160x) and instructional verb are usually put at the beginning or at the end of the sentence. Also there is no difference between hard sciences and humanities in terms of instructional verb use.