

Examine

VERB

1. to consider or study an idea, a subject, etc. very carefully examine something

These ideas will be examined in more detail in Chapter 10.

examine how, what, etc...

It is necessary to examine how the proposals can be carried out.

2. to look at somebody/something closely, to see if there is anything wrong or to find the cause of a problem.

Examine somebody/something

The doctor examined her but could find nothing wrong.

Examine something/somebody for something

The goods were examined for damage on arrival.

3. examine somebody (in/on something) (FORMAL) to give somebody a test to see how much they know about a subject or what they can do

The students will be examined in all subjects at the end of term.

You are only being examined on this semester's work.

4. examine somebody (LAW) to ask somebody questions formally, especially in court see also CROSS-EXAMINE

IDIOMS

see need (to have) your head examined at NEED v.

Usage note: about Saying what a text is about

- The book is about homeless people in the cities.
- The report deals with the issue of homelessness in London.
- The writer discusses the problems faced by homeless people.
- The article presents an overview of the issues surrounding homelessness.
- The novel explores the theme of friendship among homeless people.

- The first chapter examines the relationship between homelessness and drug addiction.
- The paper considers the question of why so many young people become homeless.

Usage note: examine – analyse – review - study - discuss.

These words all mean to think about, study or describe somebody/something carefully, especially in order to understand them, form an opinion of them or make a decision about them.

Examine: to think about, study or describe an idea, subject or piece of work very carefully:

These ideas will be examined in more detail in Chapter 10.

Analyse/analyze to examine the nature or structure of something, especially by separating it into its parts, in order to understand or explain it:

The job involves gathering and analysing data.

◇ He tried to analyse his feelings.

Review to examine something again, especially so that you can decide if it is necessary to make changes:

◇ The government will review the situation later in the year.

Study to examine somebody/something in order to understand them or it:

◇ We will study the report carefully before making a decision.

Examine or study?

You examine something in order to understand it or to help other people understand it, for example by describing it in a book;

You study something in order to understand it yourself.

Discuss to write or talk about something in detail, showing the different ideas and opinions about it:

This topic will be discussed at greater length in the next chapter.

To examine/analyse/review/study/discuss what/how/whether...

to examine/analyse/review/study/discuss the situation/evidence to
examine/analyse/review/study/discuss something
carefully/critically/systematically/briefly