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Mind Maps

Outcomes:

Discuss the benefits of creating a mind map

Compare a mind map to a mind map used for planning longer pieces of writing

Create a mind map

What is a mind map?

A type of active revision

A visual representation of helping you to **structure, organize, memorize, arrange, brainstorm and learn** information in a highly specialized way.

Benefits:

- ✓ Helps you to grasp the 'bigger picture' and **make links**
- ✓ **Improves your capacity** to explore detailed snippets of information
- ✓ Helps **improve your memory, retention, and comprehension** of information
- ✓ Helps you organise information into **easy to remember chunks**
- ✓ **Reduces cognitive** load by using diagrams, pictures and minimal words



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Summary: How to create a mind map



1.

Identify knowledge

Select a topic you wish to revise. Have your class notes/knowledge organisers ready.



2.

Identify sub topics

Place the main topic in the centre of your page and identify sub topics that will branch off.

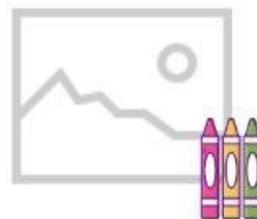


3.

Branch off

Branch off your sub topics with further detail.

Try not to fill the page with too much writing.



4.

Use images & colour

Use images and colour to help topics stick into your memory.



5.

Put it somewhere visible

Place completed mind maps in places where you can see them frequently.

Avoid using too much information: mind maps are designed to summarise key information and connect areas of a topic/subject. If you overcrowd the page, you lose the point of the mind map and will find it harder to visualise the information when trying to recall it

Once a mind map has been created, it must be visible and you should plan time to review the information on it. Quiz yourself, how much can you remember, could you condense it?



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Don't fall into the trap



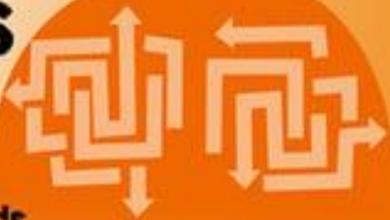
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The top mistakes students make when making mind maps include:

1. **Getting lost in the detail** – don't try to write too much, it should be short and snappy. Pictures/diagrams are a great way to make sure this doesn't happen
2. **Obsessing over the styling** – it must look appealing, but don't spend more time choosing colours and writing the title in highlighter pen
3. **Perfectionism is not your friend** – they are not meant to be perfect. Perfectionism derails you from what you need to what you want
4. **Big → difficult to read** – try to stick to A4, don't clutter your page, it should be easy to read

6 Mind Mapping Mistakes

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Mistake #1

Using only words

Students should combine words and pictures. Giving two representations of the information helps to cement it into long term memory.



Mistake #2

Using too many words

Rather than copying everything down, students should prioritise information, and only include the stuff they really need to know.



Mistake #3

Wasting time making it too pretty

Students should get onto testing themselves and actively using their mind map, instead of spending hours perfecting it.



Mistake #4

Not using elaborative interrogation

Students should ask themselves questions like 'why is this true?' about mind map content, to get them thinking deeply about the information. Re-reading just won't do.



Mistake #5

Not utilising retrieval practice

Don't forget to test yourself! Try to re-create the mind map from memory, get a friend to test you, or teach the mind map information to a friend.



Mistake #6

Not transferring mind map knowledge

Students should use the mind map to answer quizzes and past paper questions, and be sure to transfer mind map knowledge so that they truly understand and can apply it.



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Using mind maps for planning



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What will I write?

How will I write it?



Task – make a mind map or planning mind map

- Look at the information given to you
- Collect a piece of A4 paper
- Create a mind map

Or

- Use the blank planning mind map to plan a story called ‘My ideal day’

How do you feel now about using mind maps? Would you use these for revision?



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