

Top Revision Tips

These are the biggest exams of your life so far so don't blow it! Don't panic and don't pretend they'll go away because they won't. If you're organised, you'll find the exams won't be the nightmare experience that you fear and if you go about things the right way you'll even have time for a social life.

It's important to recognise that we all have different learning styles! Our brains take in

information at different rates and store it in different ways. This booklet is designed to give you examples of different ways of learning and revising so that you can find a technique which suits you best.

Before you start however we want to give you some important pointers to help you get the most out of revision!

Have the right attitude!

Having the right attitude to revision will make a massive difference to how successful you will be. Expect the best of yourself. Resolve to give yourself the best opportunity you can to reach those target grades by making revision your number 1 priority for the next few weeks.

Planning is crucial!

Write down all the subjects you have to revise, and number them in the order you want to revise them. Make an exam timetable and write down beside each subject the date and time of the exam. Make time for perhaps 3 or 4 subjects that you want to revise each day, with say 1 hour for each subject. Do plan it carefully, revising the hardest subjects at the beginning of the day when your mind is fresh and spending more time on those subjects you expect to struggle with. Remember that you will need to update it from week to week!

Find a good place to work.

It must be quiet and uncluttered - even if it means camping out at the library or your gran's house a few nights a week.

Use Revision Guides

Revision Guides can be useful but it is

advisable stick to one, preferably the one your subject teacher recommends. You can use revision guides to test yourself and provide a focus for your revision but remember they are unlikely to cover everything you may need to know.

Take Time Out

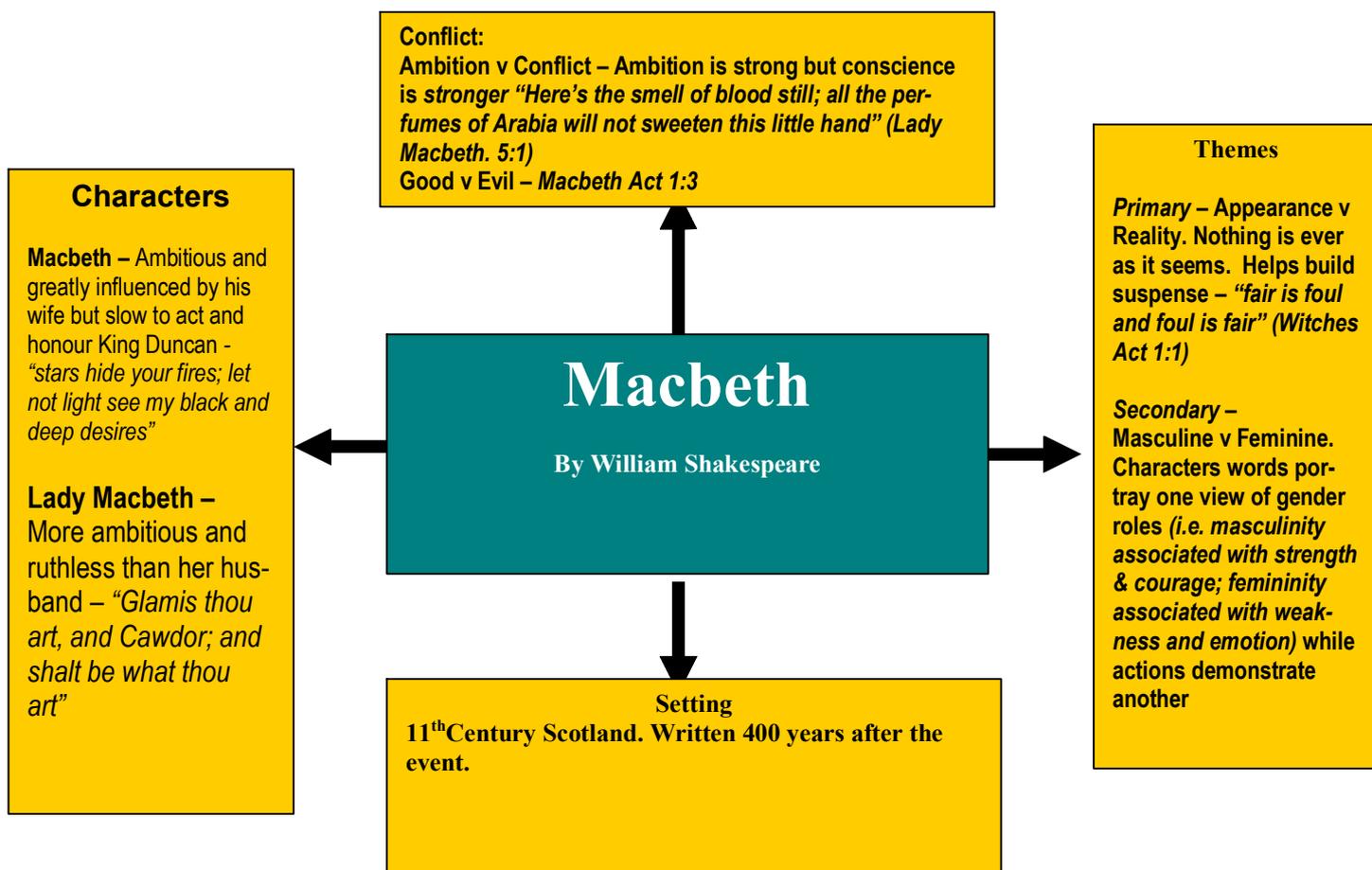
Take a 15 minute breaks every 60 minutes and make sure you have at least an hour's break for meals. Use the time to snack; take some exercise; relax and just generally clear your mind!

Test Yourself

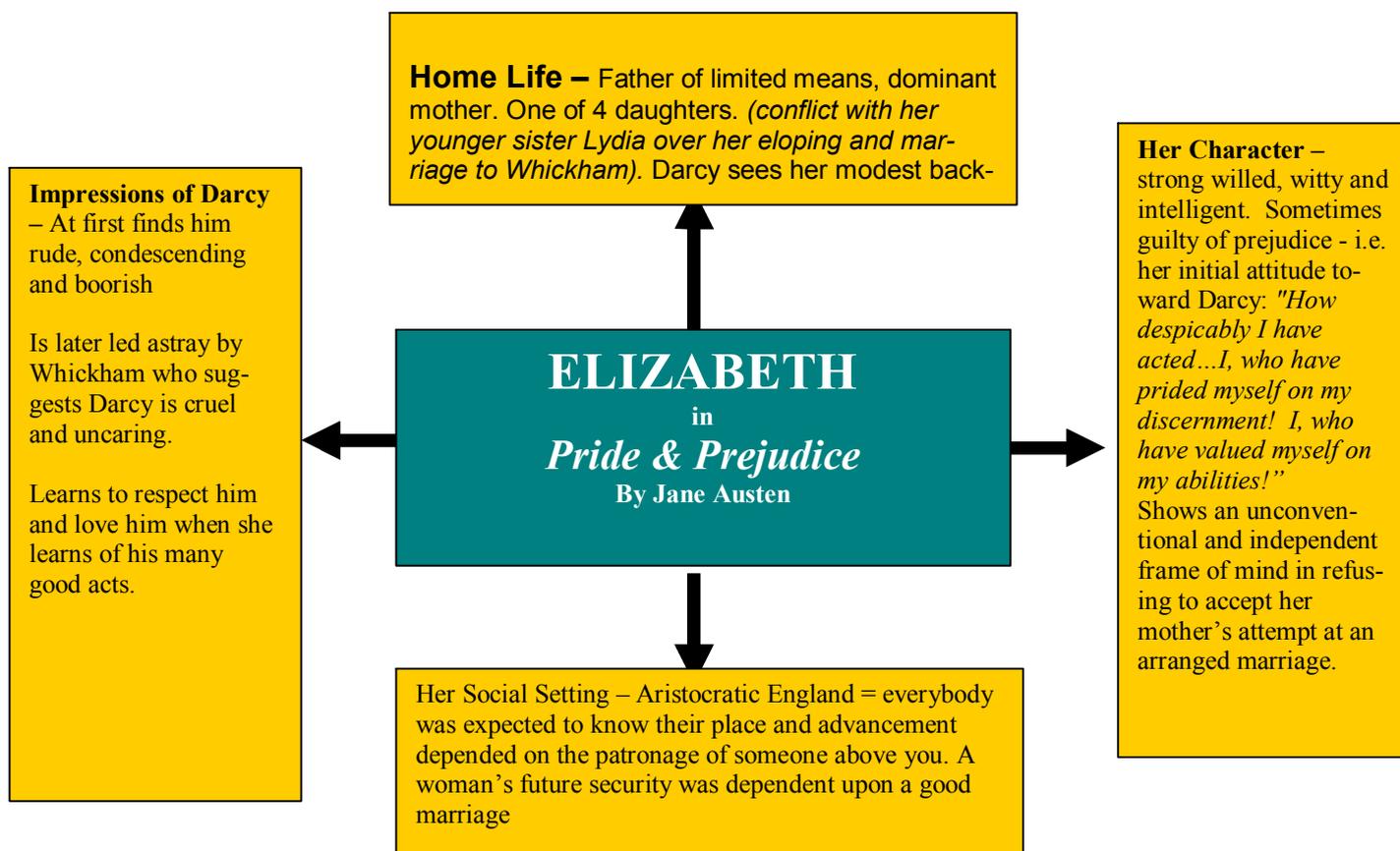
Testing yourself helps to identify areas where you need to work more. The school will provide you with past papers. Get together with your friends and test each other on key facts which you need to know – eg *French or German vocabulary, History names & dates, Biology terms; Maths formulae.*

Ask for Help!

If you get stuck, talk to someone! You're not alone. Everyone has experienced exam stress and can sympathise with what you're going through. They might even suggest a way of moving forward that you hadn't seen.



Revision Card Samples



How to make a Flow Chart

.....A Step by Step Guide.....

You can turn your subject lesson notes into a Flow Chart by writing the topic at the top and list the main ideas underneath as in this example from Religious Studies.

TOPIC – CHRISTIAN ATTITUDES TO PREJUDICE & DISCRIMINATION

Prejudice is the act of **pre-judging** someone or something, usually thinking of them as being inferior though having no or little actual knowledge of them. **Discrimination** is when people are treated badly by others because of prejudice.

Discrimination and human rights - Prejudice can be about many different things - religion, race, colour, gender, sexuality, language, disability, age etc. All prejudice and discrimination goes against the first two Articles of the UN Declaration of Human Rights: **Article 1.** *“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. ...”*; **Article 2.** *“Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.”*

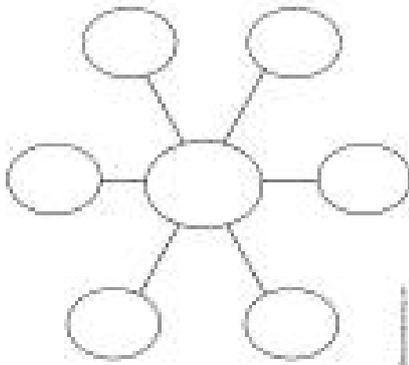
Christian attitudes towards prejudice - Christianity teaches that everyone is **equal** in the eyes of God and so it would be wrong to make anyone feel inferior or suffer because of any difference between them: *“love your neighbour as yourself.”* (**Matthew 22:39**) Jesus based his teachings about other people on love: *“love one another... as I have loved you”* (**John 13:34**). There are also 2 important teachings in the writings of Paul about this: *“From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth...”* (**Acts 17:26**). *There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.*(**Galatians 3:28**).

There have been cases where Christians do appear to be guilty of prejudice and discrimination – e.g. In **South Africa** the **Dutch Reformed Church** supported **Apartheid**, a system which meant that black people were separated from white people and treated as inferior. Europeans also colonised other countries around the world through forced slavery. Some accuse Christianity of being **sexist** for not treating men and women equally - *“Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission...”* (**1 Corinthians 14:34-35**). *“Now I want you to realise that the head of every man is Christ, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God”* (**1 Corinthians 11:3-7**). Recently some churches have allowed women to become ministers or priests (e.g. **Methodists; United Reformed Church; Church of England**, etc) but others, such as the **Roman Catholic Church** and many **Evangelicals**, will still not allow this.

How to make a Spider Diagram

.....A Step by Step Guide.....

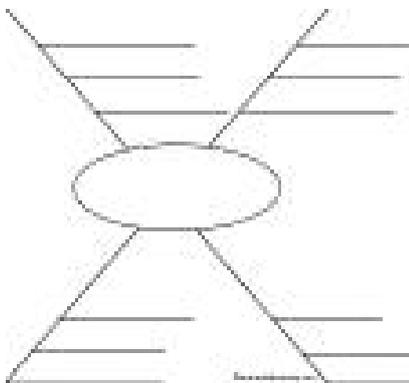
Spider diagrams are sometimes called **Graphic Organisers** and they come in various shapes and sizes including the traditional spider. Below are 4 thumbnail illustrations of different types of Graphic Organisers and examples of how you can use them. Over the page you will find an example of a star diagram used for revision purposes.



Star diagram



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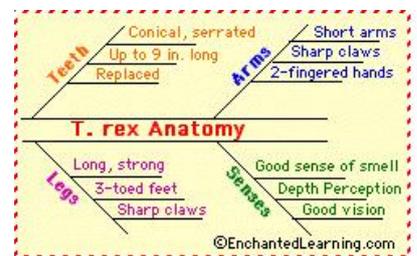
Spider diagram



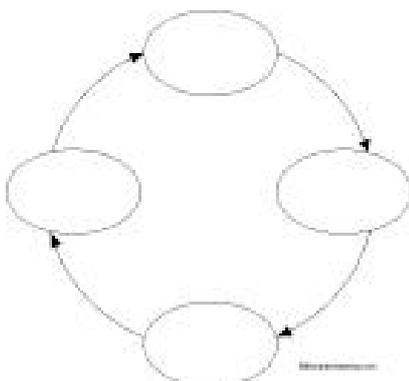
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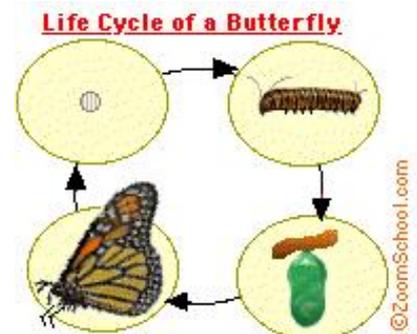
Fishbone diagram



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Cycle diagram



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Public Health

Pre 19th Century

Prior to 19th century nothing had been done about public health for many years. 2 important reasons for this inactivity were that most governments felt they should not interfere too much in people's lives. Any large scale public health improvements would be very

19th Century

An industrial period in which factories were built & towns grew up nearby. Housing conditions were often very poor. Government was forced to intervene due to extreme conditions. Examples of 2 of these are: an increase in diseases such as typhoid and cholera and the work of **Edwin Chadwick** which showed the connection between health and hygiene. The key issue here is the increasing involvement of the government and this continued into the 20th century with various acts to provide better medical care, higher standards of living and improved working conditions for everyone.

Hygiene

A clean water supply & toilets. Drains & sewers to take away dirty water.

Town Planning -

important factor connected with public health. Took away the need for individual landlords to provide a water supply. Drains to remove waste products & a rubbish removal service.

Medieval Period

People in England often failed to realise the importance of cleanliness to health. Houses strewn with rubbish on mud floors covered with straw. Parliamentary Acts such as a Statute of 1388 did not change things dramatically. Improvements only happened during epidemic outbreaks.

Ancient Egyptians, Romans & Greeks

The Ancient Egyptians, Greeks & Romans all thought cleanliness was important - usually connected with religion rather than health.

19th Century Parliamentary Acts

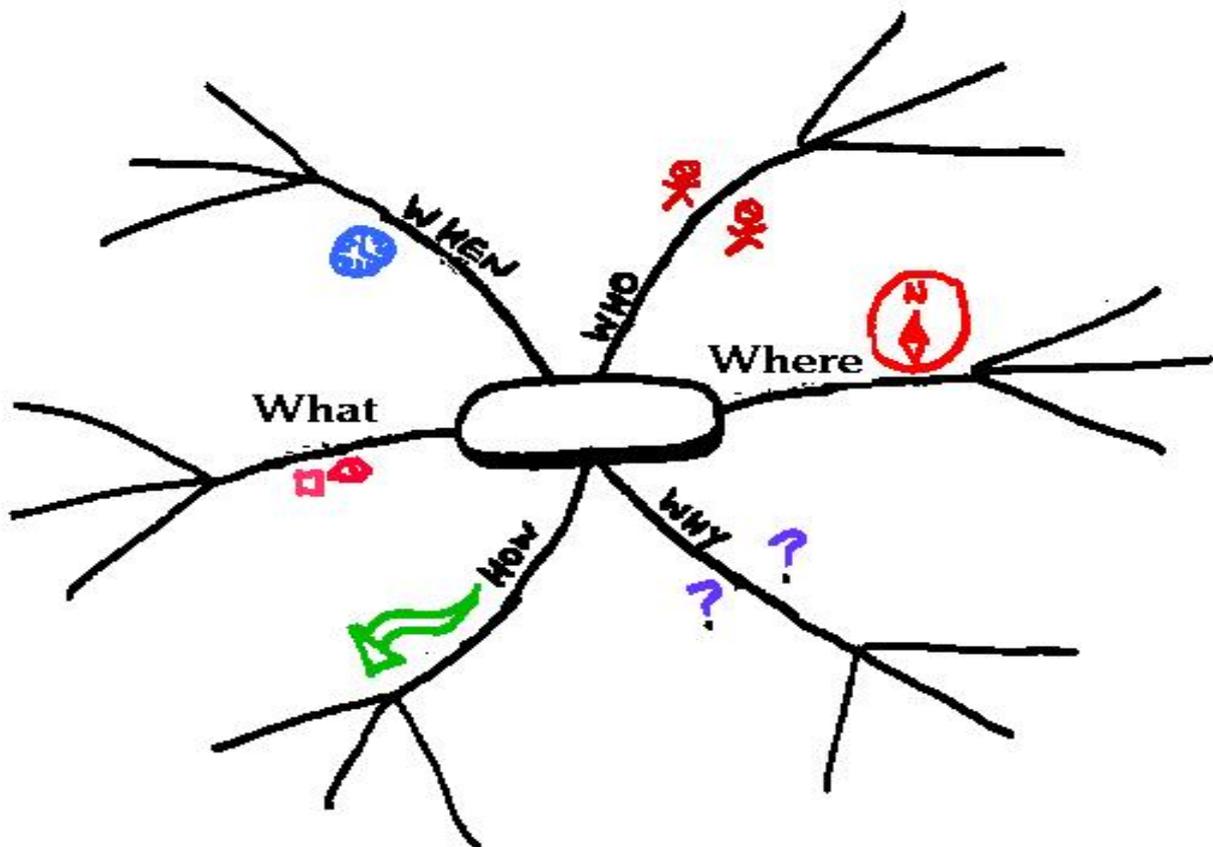
1834 Poor Law Amendment Act - Medical officers appointed to workhouses providing basic care for the poor. **1848 Act** - created to encourage local boards of health to be set up to appoint a medical officer, provide sewers, inspect lodging houses & check food offered for sale. **1853 Act** - Vaccinations made compulsory tho' no-one was given the power to enforce them. **1855 Nuisance Removal Act** - made overcrowded housing illegal. **1864 Factory Act** - made unhealthy conditions in factories illegal. **1866 Sanitary Act** - made local authorities responsible for sewers, water & street cleaning. **1868 Act** - encouraged improvement of slum housing or its demolition. **1871 Vaccinations Act** - made sure that the previous vaccinations act was obeyed. **1875 Artisans Dwelling Act** - house owners responsible for keeping their properties in good order. Local authorities given right to buy & demolish slums. **1875 Public Health Act** - acts covering & sewerage & drains, water supply, housing & disease.

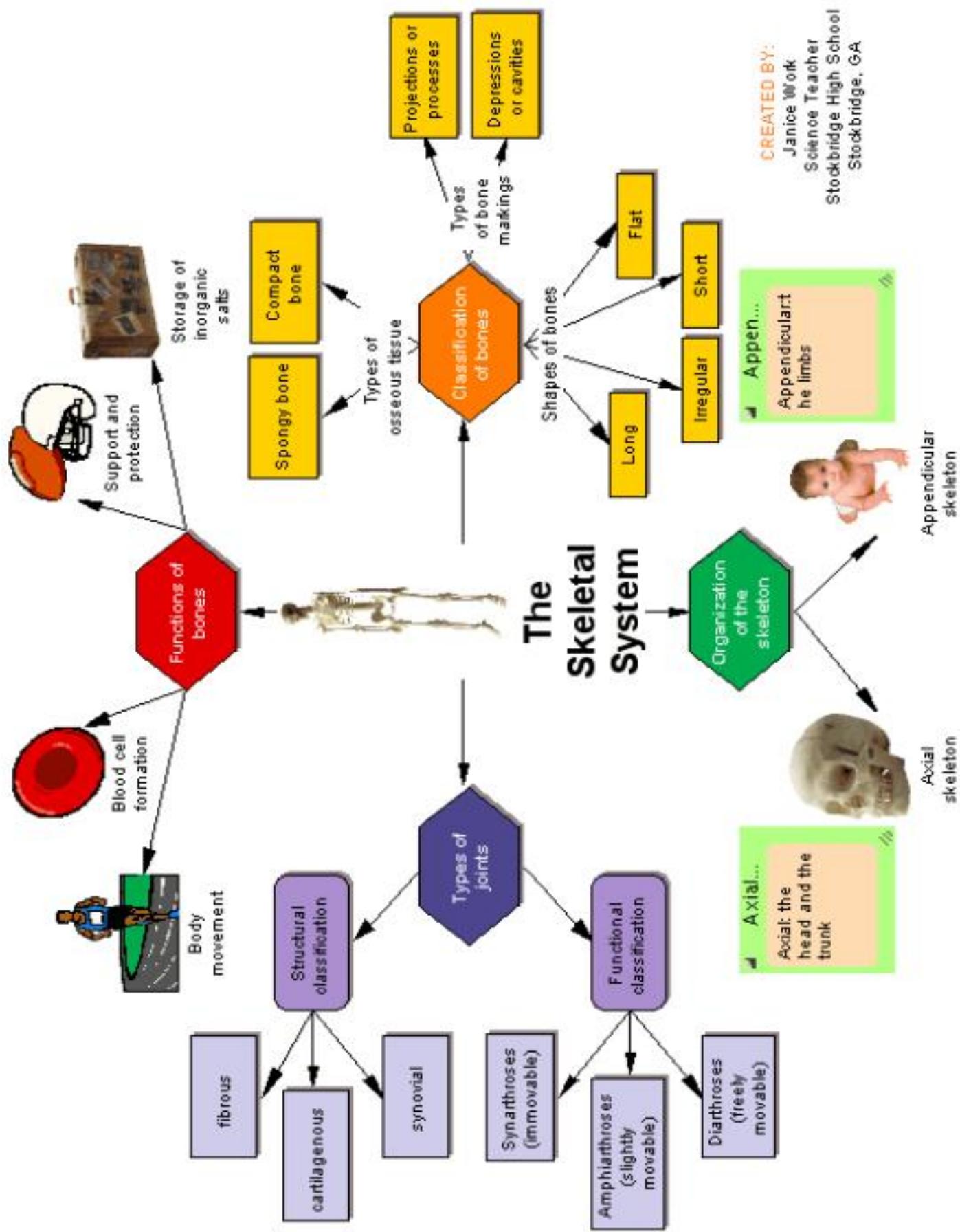
How to make a Mind Map

...A Step by Step Guide...

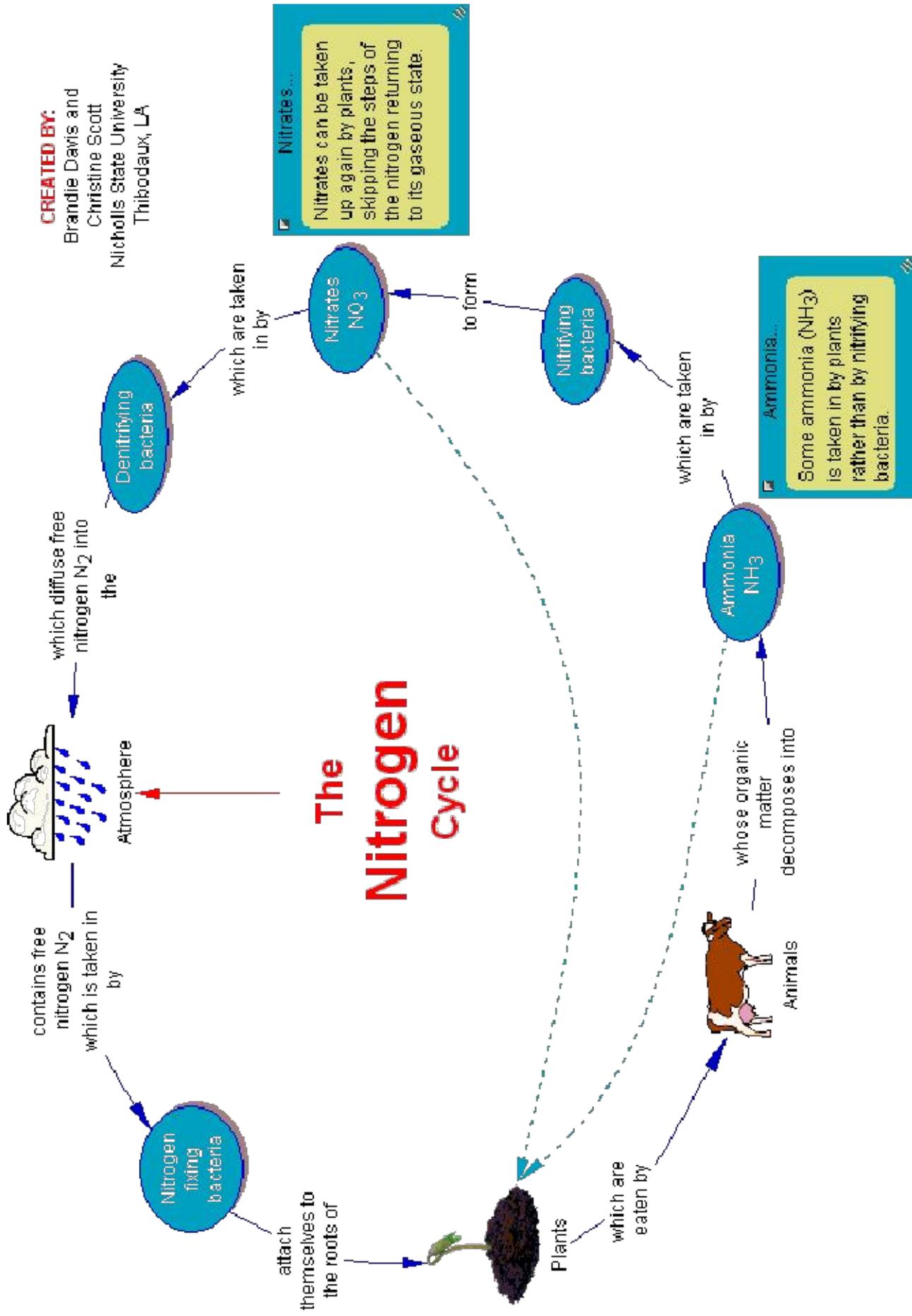
You can turn your subject lesson class notes into a Mind Map by following the instructions below. There are 3 examples of Mind Maps over the page!

- ☑ Start from the centre of the page and work out. Make the centre a clear and strong visual image that depicts the general theme of the map.
- ☑ Use a combination of key words and appropriate images. Put ideas down as they occur and wherever they fit.
- ☑ Put main subject words on main lines and key words for each subject on branch lines. **DO NOT USE TOO MANY WORDS ON YOUR MIND MAP!**
- ☑ Use **colour** to depict themes and to make things stand out. Anything that **STANDS OUT** on the page will stand out in your mind.
- ☑ Use arrows, cartoons or other visual images to make the Map more memorable.





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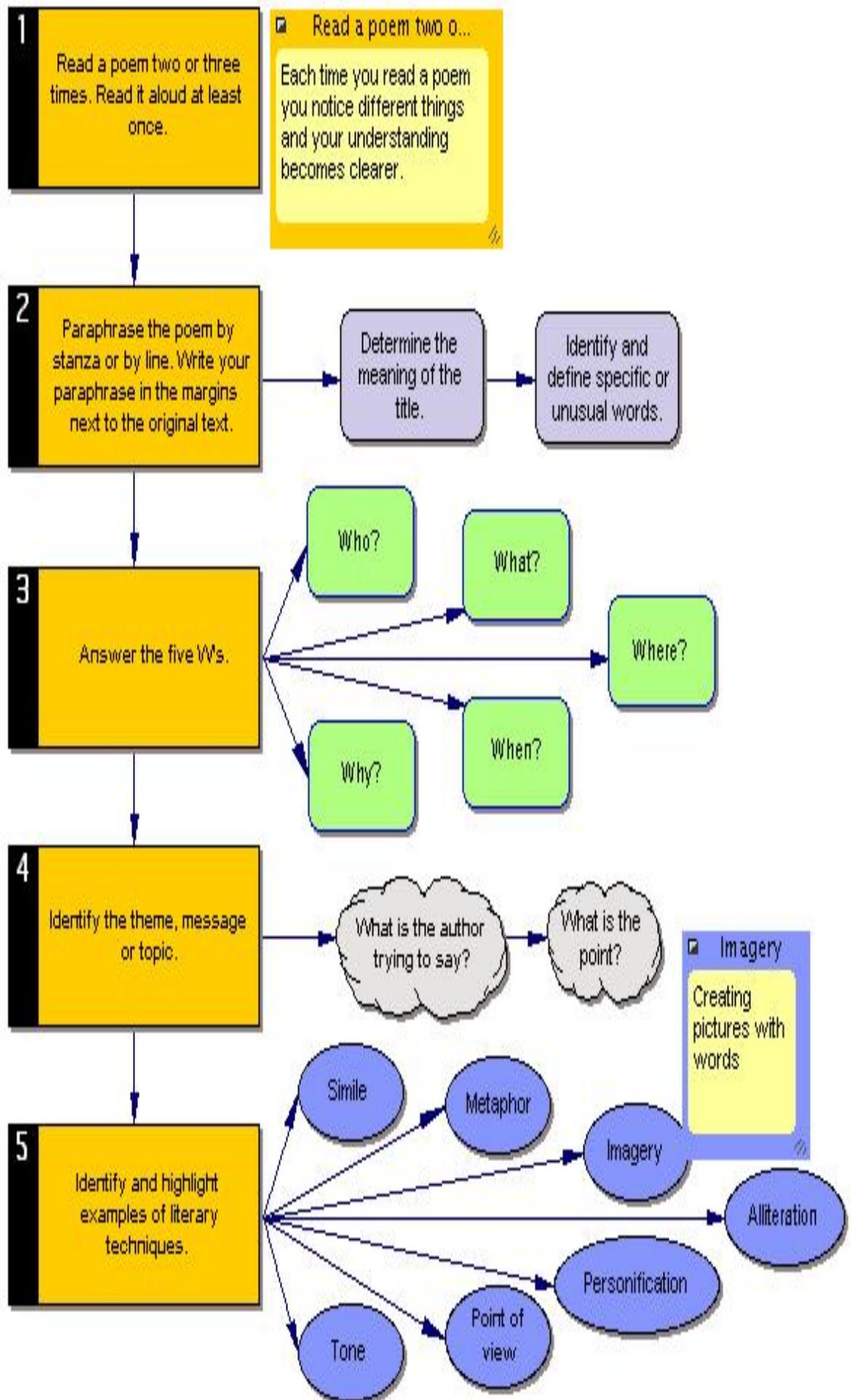
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POETRY ANALYSIS

A step-by-step approach



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Making Notes

Notes are meant to be short memory-joggers! There is no point in simply re-writing your class material

Keep your notes as brief as possible. One idea is to reduce all your notes into *key words* (a whole subject should fit onto 1 side of A4 paper).

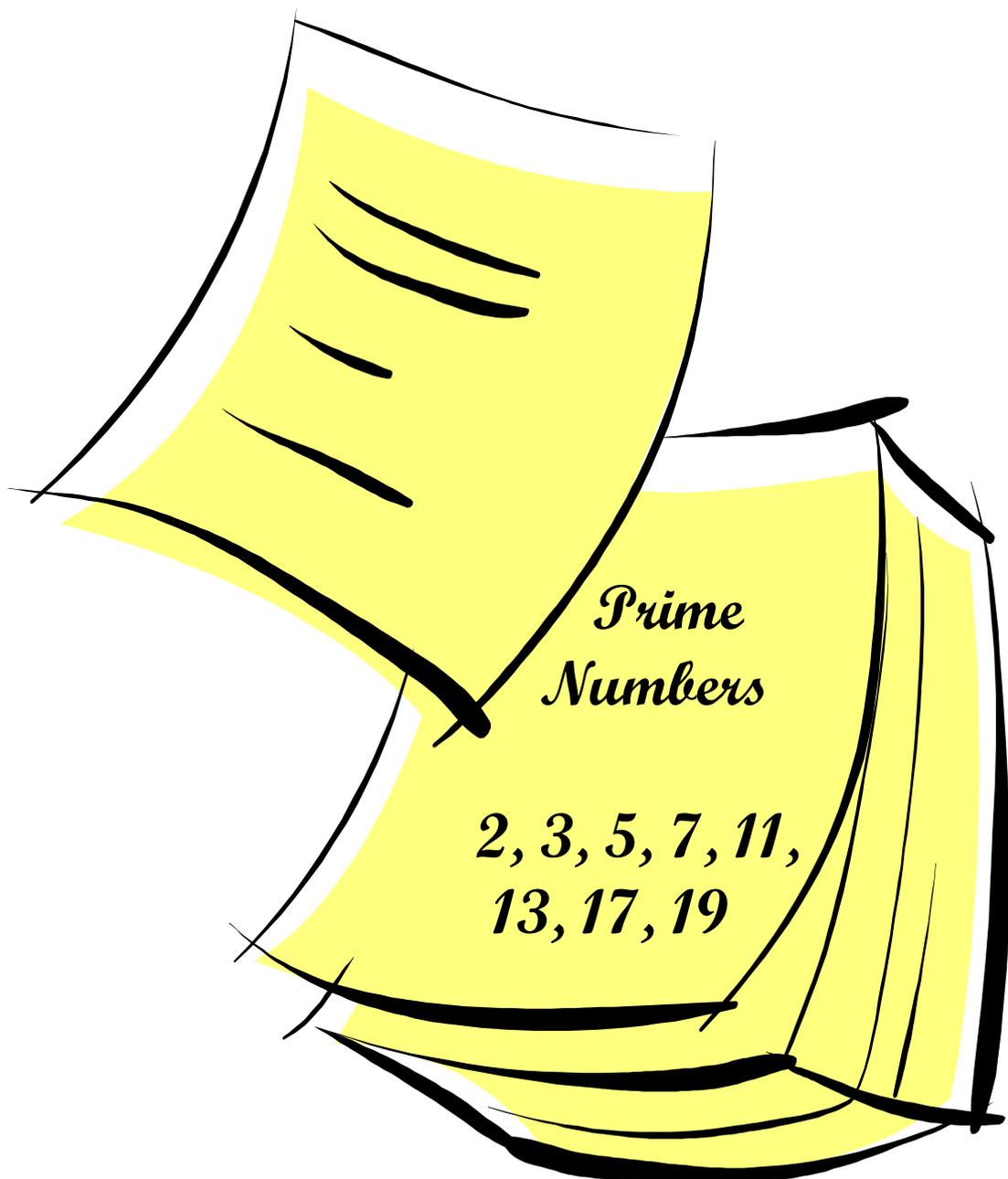
The brain remembers things best by seeing them or storing them in different ways. For example, if you read about the causes of World War I draw them in a diagram and then discuss them with a friend or teacher. You are more likely to remember what you revise if you are able to articulate what you have learned.

Use highlighting pens to colour code your notes.

Use Mind Maps, flowcharts, spider diagrams and other visual tools to make your notes more distinctive. *(Examples of these can be contained in this booklet)*

Using Post-its Memory Joggers

Buy yourself some “Post-its” which can be used to write keywords, concepts, vocabulary, quotes, formula, etc and then stuck around the house in the rooms that you spend a lot of time in (*with parents permission of course*). This means that you have a ready source of revision in your line of vision, even when you are not formally revising!



Revising using Mnemonics

Mnemonics (*pronounced without the M-nemonics*) need not be as complicated as it sounds. This word literally means 'memory'. It's about putting something memorable into your mind to help you recall information. You create a code using rhymes, phrases or acronyms which helps you to recall information that is essential for doing well in your exams.

Mnemonics have been used for centuries in education. Anyone remember these?

'Every Good Boy Deserves Favour' – This stands for the musical notes **E, G, B, D,** and **F.**

"Never Eat Shredded Wheat" – It refers to the points of a compass - **North - East - South - West.**

'Richard Of York Gave Battle In Vain' refers to the colours of the spectrum - **Red - Orange - Yellow - Green - Blue - Indigo - Violet.**

The point is you have fun making up your own to remember keywords, formula and key facts for any subject you like. Remember that Mnemonics should be short and memorable. The funnier the better however ludicrous the Mnemonic is! Below are some further examples relevant to your subjects for revision. Once you've read these try making up your own, then write them on a Post-it, stick them on a wall or mirror somewhere at home and memorise them!

KINGS PLAY CARDS ON FAT GREEN STOOLS - *the order of taxonomy in biology* = **Kingdom, Phylum, Class, Order, Family, Genus, Species.**

OIL RIG – *In Chemistry in relation to Electrons* = **Oxidation Is Loss, Reduction Is Gain.**

SOH-CAH-TOA - *Trigonometry in Maths* = **SOH ... Sine = Opposite leg divided by the Hypotenuse. CAH ... Cosine = Adjacent leg divided by the Hypotenuse. TOA ... Tangent = Opposite leg divided by the Adjacent leg.**

DIVORCED, BEHEADED, DIED, DIVORCED, BEHEADED, SURVIVED - *helps you to remember what happened to the six wives of Henry VIII*

Revising with an MP3



You may learn best by listening so why not 'talk'! Do some revision by recording onto your MP3 and then listen to these while lying in bed, or travelling in a car, or walking to the shops. This also takes

the 'guilt' out of being out and about instead of in front of the books.

Revising with Friends

Another great way to revise is to talk about what you do know about your subject to your friends who are also studying the same subjects as you. Take it in turns because you will learn insights on your subjects from them that you may not have even considered before and help clarify anything you have not fully understood! Be careful though to be disciplined about using your time for revision and not just for idle chit chat!

