

## Cashel Community School

### Study Skills

Preparation is the key to success. It is important to approach your study in the right way to get the best out of school. While in school make the best out of class time. Ask and answer questions in class.

#### Tips for Studying

- Organisation - having everything that you need
- Time Management
- Note Taking
- Study Techniques
- Concentration

#### Make your own personal timetable

- Remove all your committed time
  - Sports, Music, meals, t.v., Training etc
- Divide the rest of your time into blocks of 20-25 minutes with a 5 minute break.
- After Three blocks take a 15 minute break.
- Do your easiest work first.
- Mix up your routine, don't always do your homework first and then study.
- The best way to learn is to make mistakes and correct them.
- Either make a weekly timetable or spend time each night making a nightly timetable

#### *The Principle of Learning'*

1. Have a go --
2. Make mistakes --
3. Correct them!



# Timetable / Plan/ Routine

- Create your own timetable schedule for doing your homework / study

**COURSE LEVEL**  
#3 #2 #1

**MINIMUM DAYS UNTIL EXAM**  
#10 / 5 days  
#6 / 5 days  
#2 / 5 days

**MATH 11A**  
Mathematics 11A

**HISTORY 12B**  
Streams of Civilization

**WRITING 1**  
Art of Dramatic Writing

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WR. 1	Reading 3 9:00 - 10:00	Reading 4 9:00 - 10:00	REVIEW 9:00 - 10:00		EXAM
HIS. 12B	Chapters 2-3 10:00 - 11:00	Chapters 4-5 10:00 - 11:00	Chapters 6-7 10:00 - 11:00	REVIEW 10:00 - 11:00	EXAM
M. 19A		Chapter 3 11:00 - 12:00	Chapter 4 11:00 - 12:00	REVIEW 9:00 - 12:00	EXAM

# Thursday

<u>5.00-5.25</u>	<u>H.W. Irish letter; Geog. Q 7-10</u>
<u>5.30-5.55</u>	<u>STUDY "Causes W.W.1"</u>
<u>6.00-6.25</u>	<u>Dinner</u>
<u>6.30-6.55</u>	<u>"Home &amp; Away"</u>
<u>7.00-7.25</u>	<u>H.W. Maths</u>
<u>7.30-7.55</u>	<u>"Eastenders"</u>
<u>8.00-8.25</u>	<u>STUDY "Types of Rocks"</u>
<u>8.30-8.40</u>	<u>Review for 10 mins</u>
<u>8.40-9.00</u>	<u>my exercises!</u>
<u>9.00-9.25</u>	<u>H.W. French vocab.; Eng. Poetry</u>
<u>9.30-9.50</u>	<u>Finish off Homework??</u>

# Weekly Study Timetable

25 MINUTES WORK & 5 MINUTES "ROUTINE"

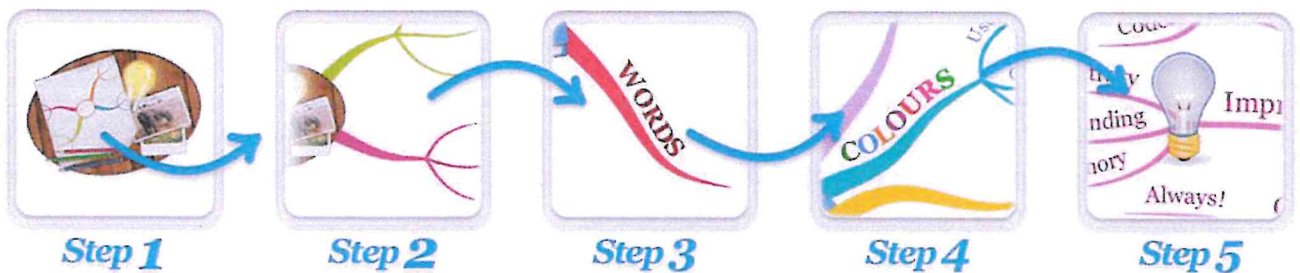
MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT	SUN
5.00 – 5.25	<del>5.00 – 5.25</del>	<del>5.00 – 5.25</del>	5.00 – 5.25	4.45 – 5.10	9.05 – 9.30	
HOMEWORK	<del>MATHS ACCOUNTING</del>	<del>MATHS ACCOUNTING</del>	MATHS ACCOUNTING		HOMEWORK	
5.30 – 5.55	<del>5.30 – 5.55</del>	<del>5.30 – 5.55</del>	5.30 – 5.55	5.15 – 5.30		
FRENCH			HOMEWORK	REVIEW		
DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	DINNER	5.35 – 6.00		
"HOME & AWAY"	"HOME & AWAY"	MATHS	"HOME & AWAY"			
7.00 – 7.25	7.00 – 7.25	7.00 – 7.25	7.00 – 7.25	DINNER	1.15 – 1.40	1.00 – 1.25
ACCOUNTING	HOMEWORK	HOMEWORK	HOMEWORK	"HISTORY & AWAY"	ACCOUNTING	
7.30 – 7.50	7.30 – 7.45	7.30 – 7.45		7.00 – 7.25		1.30 – 1.55
REVIEW	REVIEW	REVIEW	GEOGRAPHY	IRISH		
7.55 – 8.20	7.50 – 8.15			7.30 – 7.55	6.00 – 6.25	
HOMEWORK	HISTORY			CATCH UP	HOMEWORK	
PLAY	8.20 – 8.45		8.30 – 8.45		6.30 – 6.55	6.00 – 6.20
COMPUTER	HOMEWORK		REVIEW		CATCH UP	W/E REVIEW
8.45 – 9.10	PHONE CALLS!		8.55 – 9.15			
			FRENCH			
9.15 – 9.40	9.05 – 9.30	9.10 – 9.35	9.20 – 9.45			9.00 – 9.25
EASIEST HWK	ENGLISH	HISTORY	HOMEWORK			CATCH UP
	9.35 – 10.00	9.40 – 10.00				
	EASIEST HWK	EASIEST HWK				

# What is a Mind Map?

A Mind Map is a visual thinking tool that can be applied to all cognitive functions, especially memory, learning, creativity and analysis. Mind Mapping is a process that involves a distinct combination of imagery, colour and visual-spatial arrangement. The technique maps out your thoughts using keywords that trigger associations in the brain to spark further ideas.

Mind Maps can be drawn by hand or using software such as [Inspiration](#) or Xmind. There are many other mindmapping programs. When creating a Mind Map, there are several elements to consider including the map's central image, branches, colours, keywords and images. Lets take a look at these now...

## Steps to creating a Mind Map

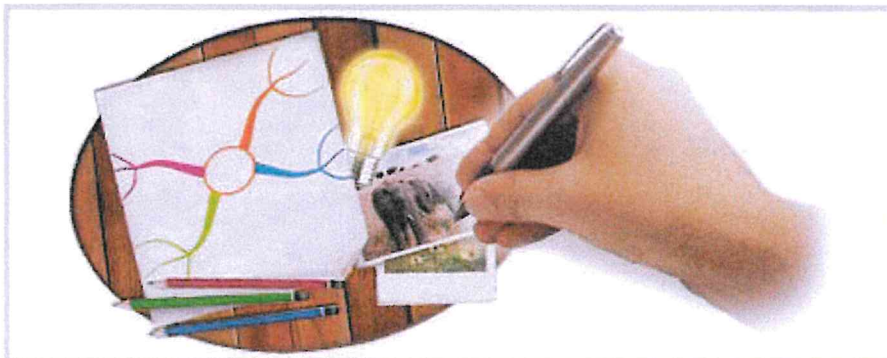


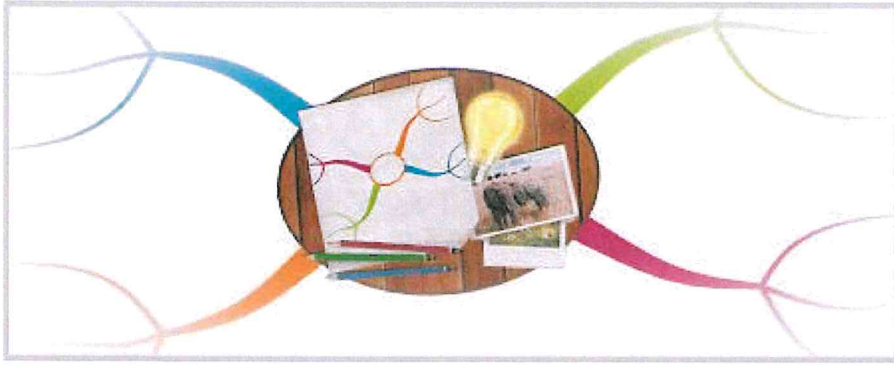
### Step 1. Create a central idea

The central idea is the starting point of your Mind Map and represents the topic you are going to explore.

Your central idea should be in the centre of your page and should include an image that represents the Mind Map's topic. This draws attention and triggers associations, as our brains respond better to visual stimuli.

Taking the time to personalise your central idea, whether it's hand drawn or on the computer, will strengthen the connection you have with the content in your Mind Map.





## Step 2. Add branches to your map

The next step to get your creative juices flowing is to add branches. The main branches which flow from the central image are the key themes. You can explore each theme or main branch in greater depth by adding child branches.

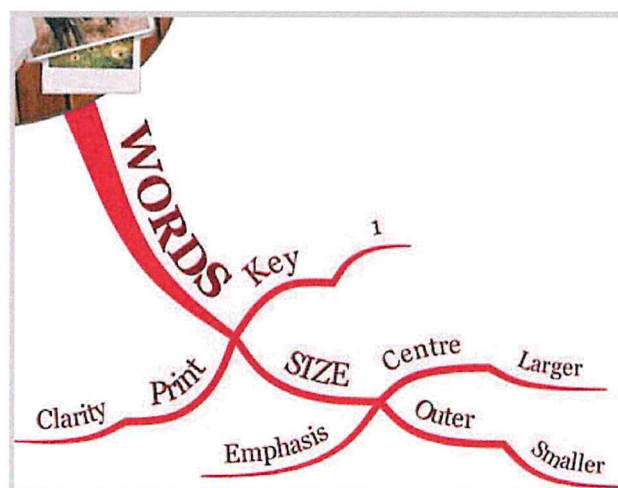
The beauty of the Mind Map is that you can continually add new branches and you're not restricted to just a few options. Remember, the structure of your Mind Map will come naturally as you add more ideas and your brain freely draws new associations from the different concepts.

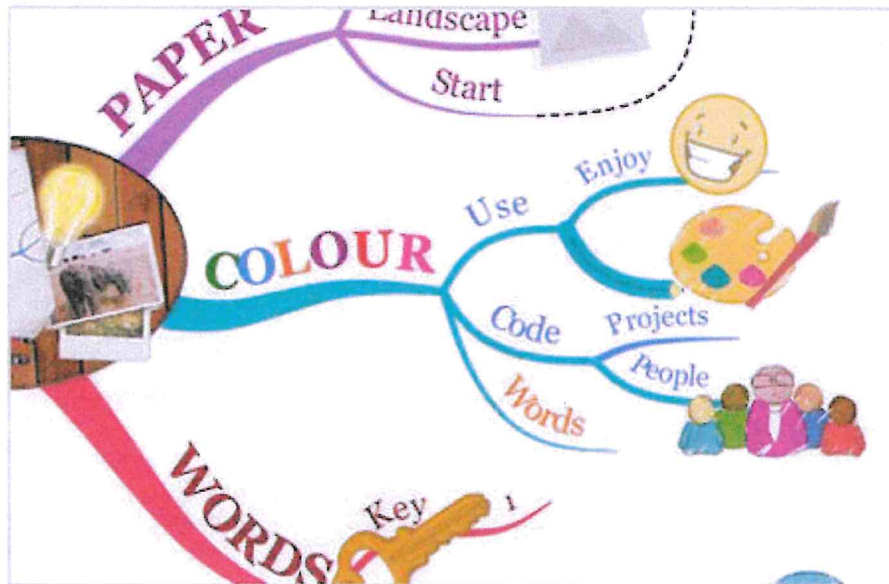
## Step 3. Add Keywords

When you add a branch to your Mind Map, you will need to include a key idea. An important tip in Mind Mapping is using **one word per branch**. Keeping to one word sparks off a greater number of associations compared to using multiple words or phrases.

For example, if you include 'Birthday Party' on a branch, you are restricted to just aspects of the party. However, if you simply use the keyword 'Birthday', you can radiate out and explore the keyword, party, but also a wide variety of different keywords such as presents, cake etc.

One word per branch also works well for chunking information into core topics and themes. The use of keywords triggers connections in your brain and allows you to remember a larger quantity of information. This is supported by Farrand, Hussain and Hennessey (2002) who found that medical students who adopted Mind Mapping experienced a 10% increase in their long-term memory of factual information.





#### Step 4. Colour code your branches

Mind Mapping encourages whole brain thinking as it brings together a wide range of cortical skills from logical and numerical to creative and special.

The overlap of such skills makes your brain more synergetic and maintains your brain's optimal working level. Keeping these cortical skills isolated from one another does not help brain development which the Mind Map seeks to do.

One example of whole brain thinking is colour coding your Mind Maps. Colour coding links the visual with the logical and helps your brain to create mental shortcuts. The code allows you to categorise, highlight, analyse information and identify more connections which would not have previously been discovered. Colours also make images more appealing and engaging compared to plain, monochromatic images.

#### Step 5. Include Images

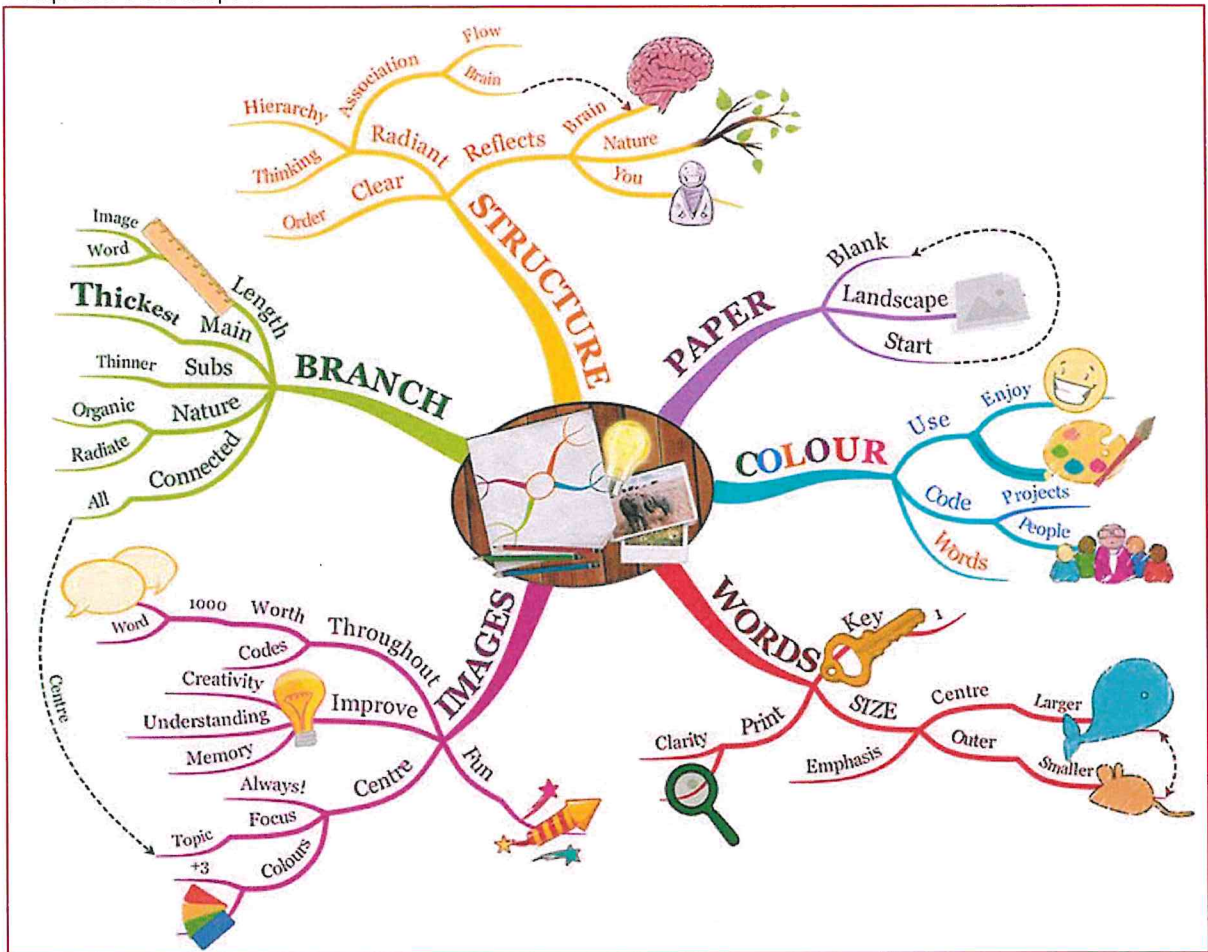
Images have the power to convey much more information than a word, sentence or even an essay. They are processed instantly by the brain and act as visual stimuli to recall information. Better yet, images are a universal language which can overcome any language barrier.

We are intrinsically taught to process images from a young age. According to Margulies (1991), before children learn a language, they visualise pictures in their minds which are linked to concepts. For this reason, Mind Maps maximize the powerful potential of imagery.

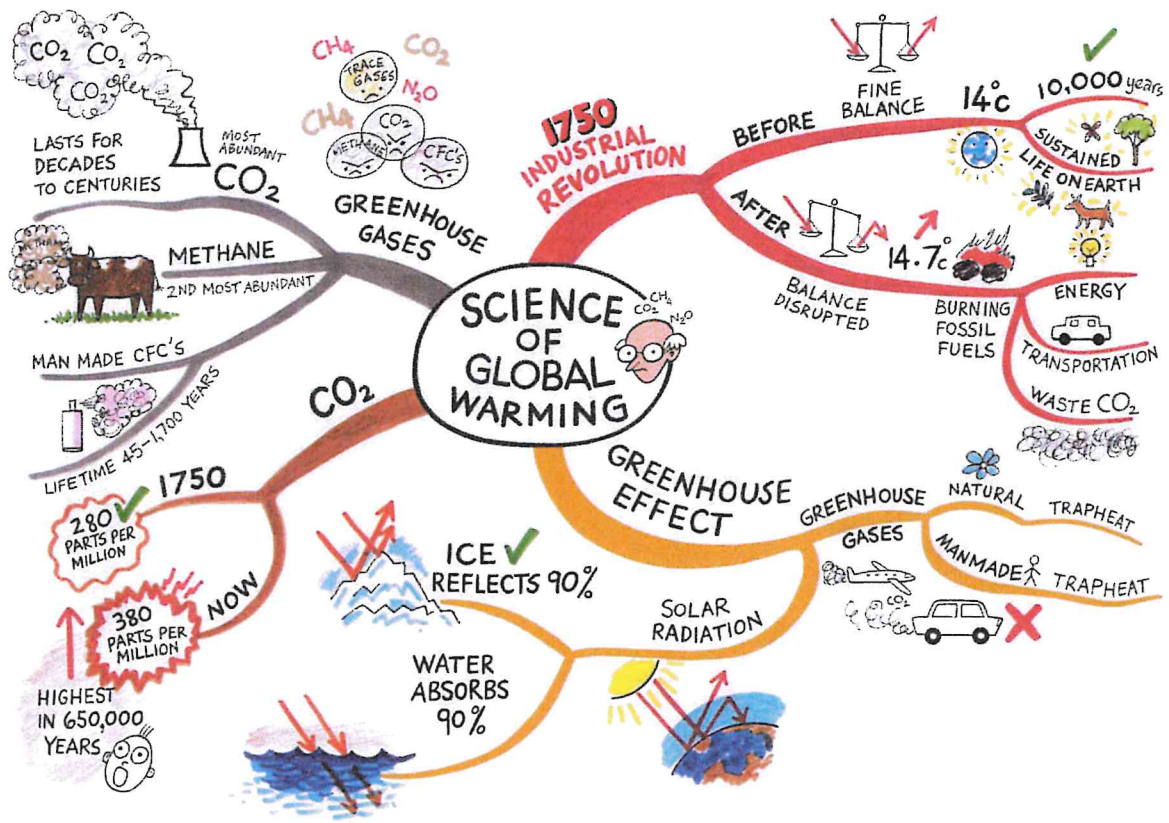


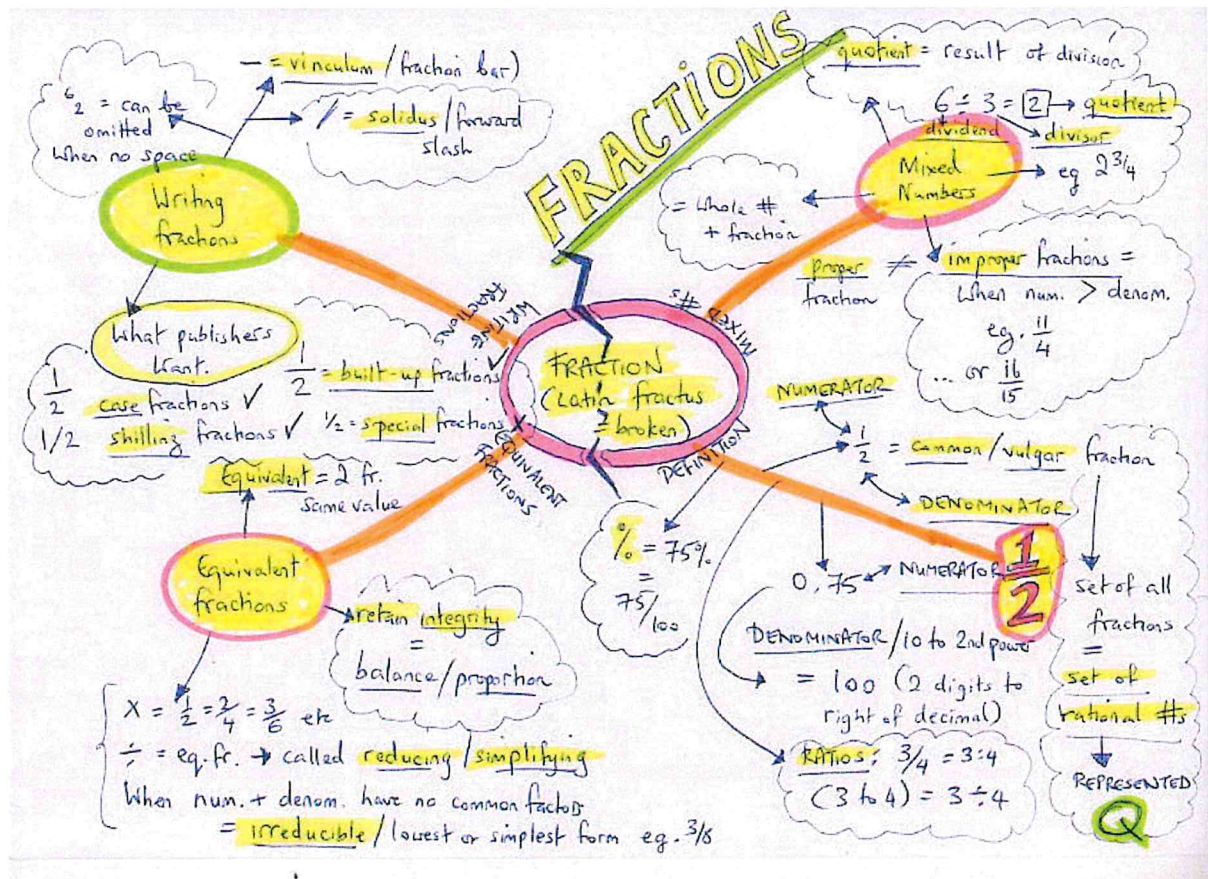
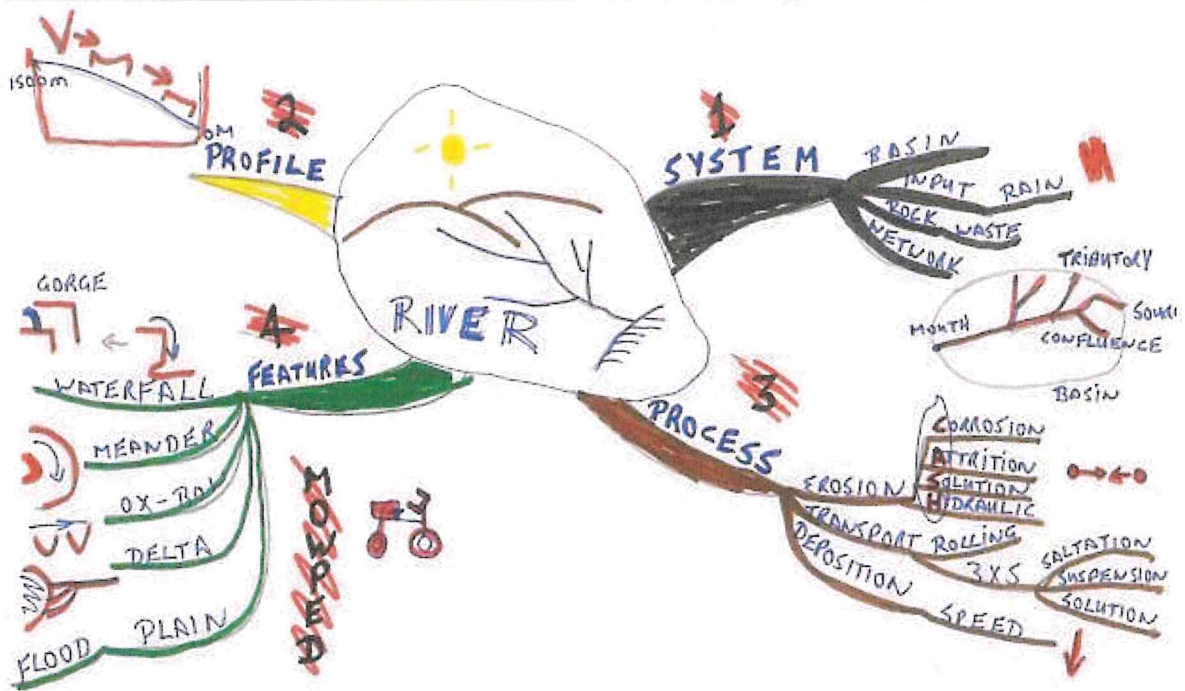


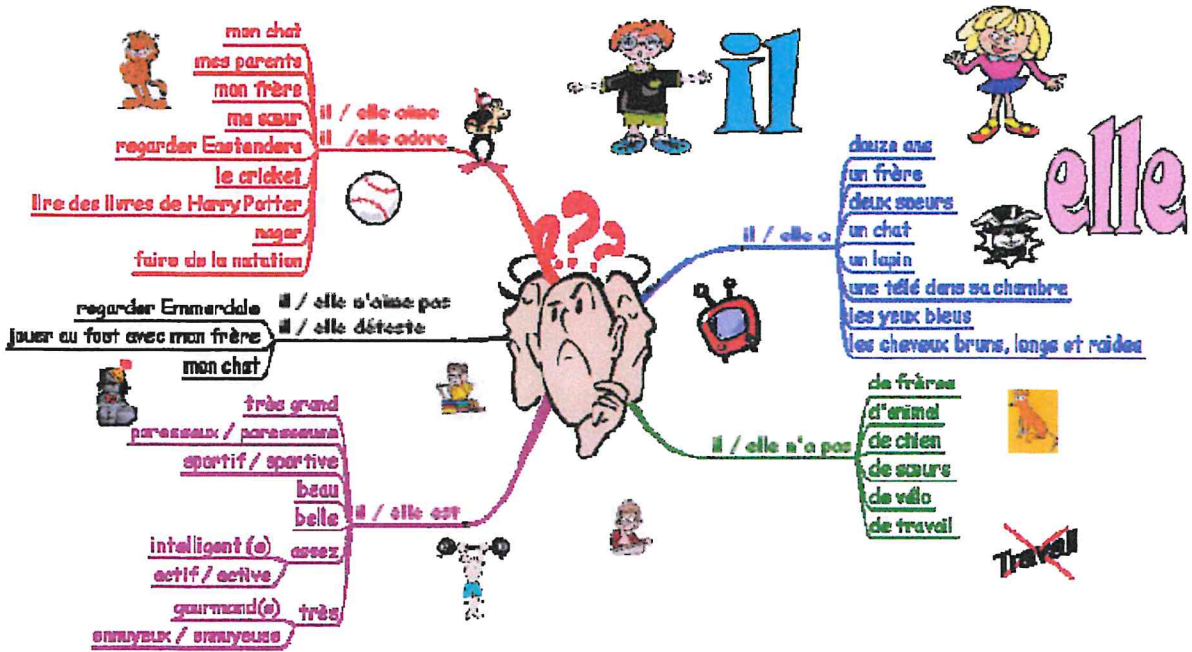
Completed mind map...



# Examples of Mindmaps

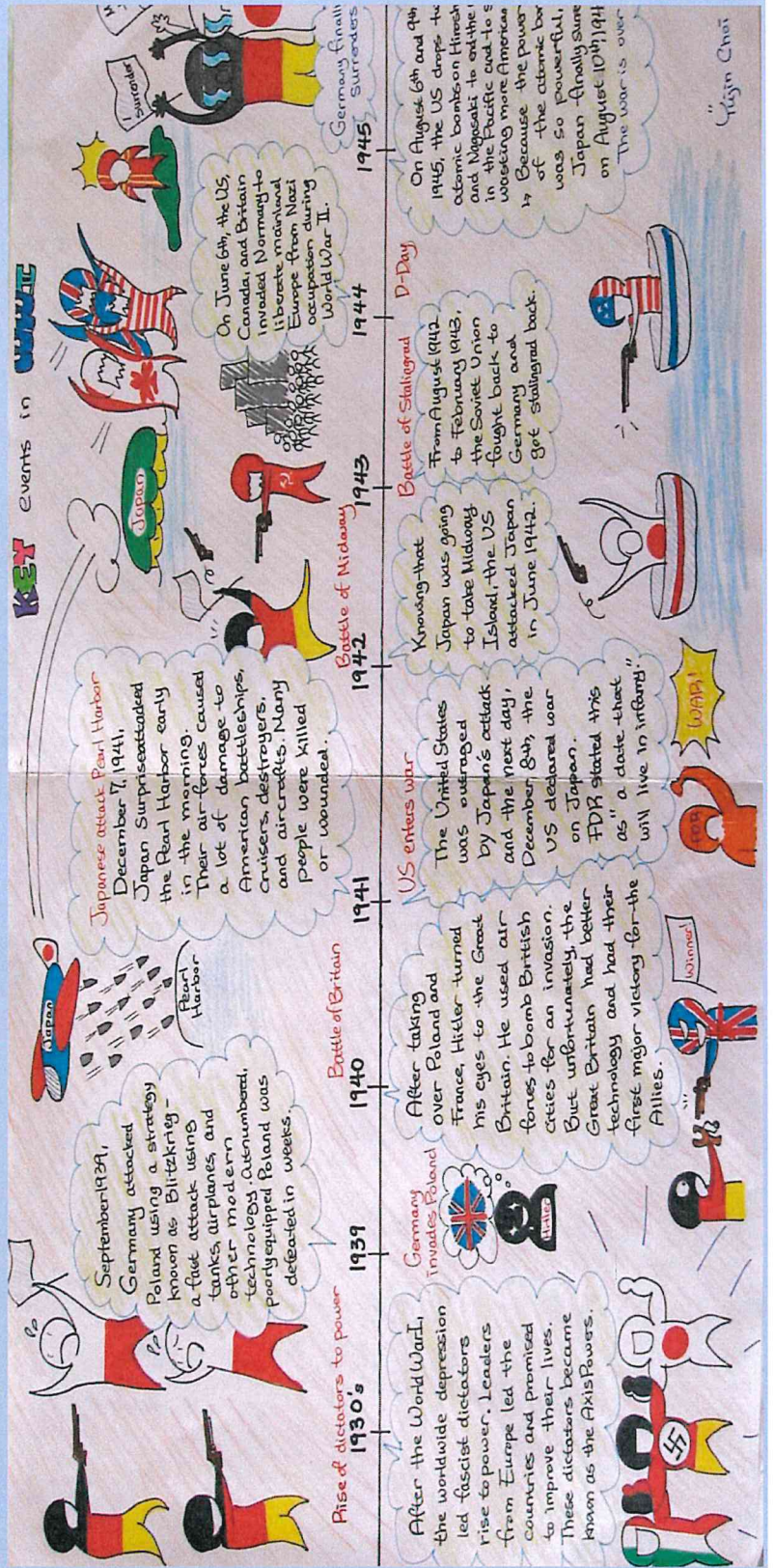
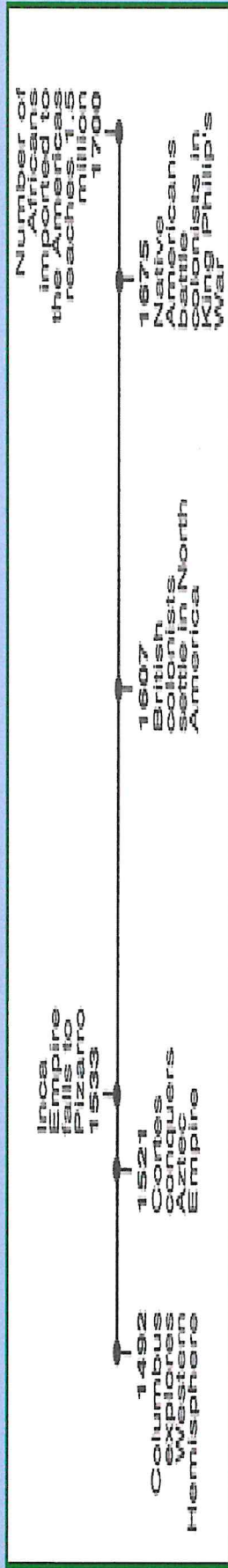






# Describing someone else

# Timelines



Yiqin Chen

# Study Tips

1.

## SURVEY

Scan the text.

Look for:

- headings
- sub-headings
- pictures and their captions
- diagrams
- bold text
- italicised text.

2.

## QUESTION

Ask yourself:

- who
- what
- where
- when
- why
- how.

What do I already know about this topic?

What is this text about?

How does this information help me?

3.

## READ

Read the text and look for answers to the questions you first raised.

## RECITE

Answer the questions using evidence from the text.

## REVIEW

Go back over the text and questions. Check that you have answered the questions thoroughly and have used evidence from the text.





# Flash Cards

Example: Write the word  
on the front

joist

Front

Write the definition or  
important points on the back

Keep it short, to the point  
and written in your own words

- a piece of lumber 2 to 4 inches thick, 6 or more inches wide, various lengths
- used horizontally to support a ceiling or floor

Back



## Ten Study Tips for Students

### 1. Colour code your timetable, giving each subject a different colour.

Do several copies: one for the locker, the homework journal, your study area. Put in the name of your teacher and classroom the first time you put in a subject. It could look like this.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>English R. 2</b> Ms Daly	<b>Home Ec.</b> Kitchen Ms Daly	<b>Science</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>Science</b>
<b>Maths R. 14</b> Ms. Carroll	<b>Home Ec.</b>	<b>Art</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Home Ec.</b>
<b>History R. 4</b> Ms Keogh	<b>English</b>	<b>Art</b>	<b>PE</b>	<b>Home Ec.</b>
<b>Geography</b> R. 23 Ms. Kelly	<b>PE</b> Ms. Wilson	<b>Maths</b>	<b>Irish</b>	<b>Art</b>
<b>Science Lab</b> Mr. Dunne	<b>CSPE R. 5</b> Mr. Boland	<b>Business</b>	<b>Business</b>	<b>English</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>Business</b> R. 16 Mr. Malone	<b>Business</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Irish</b>
<b>Art Room</b> Ms. Walsh	<b>Irish R. 8</b> Ms. Grey	<b>Irish</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>Geography</b>
<b>Art</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>English</b>	<b>SPHE R8</b>	<b>Maths</b>
<b>Religion</b>	<b>History</b>	<b>Geography</b>	<b>Irish</b>	<b>Religion</b>

### 2. Become organised. Use your homework journal for homework and to pack your bag for the next day.

Write the names of the subjects in our journal for each day. It will save time when taking down homework in class. For your files/notes/books

- Have a weekly clear out and organisation of locker and work area.
- Use colour folders and covers/colour tabs for your copies. Use the same colour for the subjects as in your timetable. For example, English could be red, Maths yellow, Geography pink etc.
- Have your MOBILE switched OFF when doing homework.

### 3. Use SMART Goals for homework so you have an exact idea of what to learn within a given time.



It will help to keep you focussed. This is far more productive than reading over a chapter three times. Here is an example from History on the Reformation. *At the end of 20 minutes I will know the following key facts and be able to test myself:*

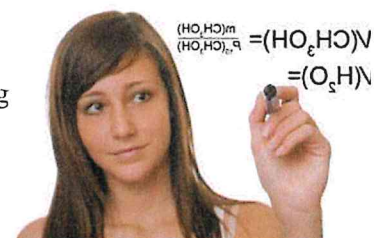
- 5 causes of the reformation
- 5 facts about Luther's life
- 5 facts about how his beliefs were different to those of the Catholic Church
- The names of 2 other reformers

#### **4. You need to put material to be learnt from short-term memory into long-term.**

Rote learning (learning off-by-heart what you do not understand) is not recommended for students with dyslexia. It is better to learn with understanding or to see patterns. Use several senses rather than look over/read notes to make the material your own. It is hard work but it helps. Use activities such talking, listening, debating, drawing, visualising, flashcards, lists of questions etc.

#### **5. Know your preferred learning style and use it for learning.**

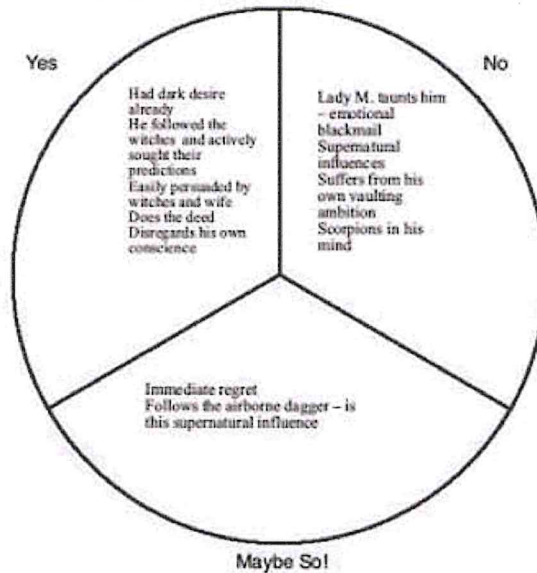
- **Visual learners** – prefer diagrams, colour, mindmaps, organisers
- **Verbal/auditory learners** – like using highlighting, recording on MP3, talking information.
- **Movement**, movement, saying, writing.



The website [www.vark-learn.com](http://www.vark-learn.com) has an on-line questionnaire that takes about ten minutes to complete and tells you your preferred learning style.

#### **6. Note taking**

### Is Macbeth responsible for Duncan's death?



## 7. Memory techniques can help with learning.

Visualisation. Make up images in your mind to help you remember. Here is an example. The colours in the wires in the electric plug are **blue, green/yellow, and brown**. See the image of a *Teddybear* (brown for the live wire,) on green grass (green for the earth wire) and a blue sky (blue for the neutral).

Grouping. Don't try to memorise long lists of unrelated facts. Group them in blocks.

Mnemonics. Make up sentences or words that help you remember facts. Here are some examples.

- FATDAD: 6 counties of Northern Ireland
- Colours of the Rainbow: - Richard of York gave battle in vain
- Stalagmites and Stalactites: Mites go up, tites come down
- Spring Forward, Fall Back: (the change in hours in Autumn & Spring)

## 8. Reading

Try to make time to read something every day. It will develop reading stamina and speed. It is like training for a race. You cannot run a 5KM race immediately. You train for it over time.

Active reading means asking yourself questions about the text before you start, then try to find the answers

to those questions as you read. It will help keep your mind focussed. When you finish, check if you can now answer the questions.

See if a plastic colour overlay helps or use a ruler to keep your eyes focussed on the page. Maybe enlarged print (on computer or Kindle) may help. Digital copies of textbooks are available so you can read and hear the text at the same time. Factsheet 16 under downloads at [www.dyslexiacourses.ie](http://www.dyslexiacourses.ie) has details on how to access them. There is a scanning pen available now which reads aloud text as well as capturing text to file. See [www.scanningpenshop.com](http://www.scanningpenshop.com).

Reading aloud or subvocalizing (saying the words quietly to yourself) can help you read more accurately particularly in exams.

## 9. Spelling and Vocabulary

Dictionary/notebook when reading will help develop vocabulary. Have an alphabet bookmark and choose a dictionary where the alphabet is printed on each page.



Keep a vocabulary notebook for each subject.

Develop mnemonics for spelling words you confuse:

- Dilemma Emma has a **dilemma**
- Separate There is a **rat** in separate
- Innocent **In no century** is murder an innocent crime
- Principal/Principle The principal is your **Pal**, a rule is a principle

Become a word detective. Lots of longer words come from Latin and Greek. If you understand the meaning of some of these words, you will be able to understand new words you might come across. For example, if *aqua* = water, *phobia* = fear, *hydro* = water, *bi* = two, *lateral* = side, *--cide* = killing, you might be able to guess the meaning of the following:

- Aquaphobia, hydrophobia,
- Hydrotherapy
- Bilateral, multilateral,

- Herbicide, infanticide, insecticide.

## 10. Writing

Make up three characters in great detail such as how they look, clothes, hobbies, family, school, jobs, friends, opinions etc. Collect pictures from magazines etc. to illustrate your characters. It makes it easier to compose a short story if you have people already in your head.

Use your five senses when writing a description of a scene.

When answering questions think of 3 points to support your answer, then 2 references /quotes to back up each point.

Use the question to start your answer. So if you are asked *What the key causes of climate change?* begin your answer *The key causes of climate change are..*

Write and don't stop for spelling, check it afterwards otherwise it will interrupt your thinking.

Have checklists of points to prompt you to write more. For example when writing about a person in history, think about clothes, food, farming, houses, rulers, religion, schools, beliefs, death.

Templates which show how to structure an answer help with planning. Examples are available with Inspiration Software. Here is an example.

