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Study Factsheet Series - No 5

Mind Maps

How to do a mind map

Mind mapping involves writing down a central idea and thinking up new and related ideas which radiate out from the centre. By focusing on key ideas written down in your own words, and then looking for branches to and connections between the ideas, you are mapping knowledge in a manner which will help you understand and remember new information.

Look for relationships

Use lines, colours, arrows, branches or some other way of showing connections between the ideas generated on your mind map. These relationships may be important in your understanding new information or in construction a structured essay plan. By personalising the map with your own symbols and designs you will be constructing visual and meaningful relationships between ideas which will assist in your recall and understanding.

Leave lots of space

Some of the most useful mind maps are those which are added to over a period of time. After the initial drawing of the mind map you may wish to highlight things, add information or add questions for the duration of a subject right up until exam time. For this reason it is a good idea to leave lots of space.

Put main idea in the centre

Most students find it useful to turn their page on the side and do a mind map in “landscape” style. These hints on how to construct a mind map have been adapted from the work of Tony Buzan and others who have promoted mind mapping as a learning and thinking tool. For a full explanation of the mind mapping technique, see Buzan, T. (1991). *The mind map book*. New York: Penguin.

James Cook University, *Mind Maps*, viewed 06/09/2018, [jcu.edu.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0005/115394/jcu_126453.pdf](http://jcu.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0005/115394/jcu_126453.pdf)

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Example of a Mind Map

