

Kwame's advice on making university standard notes

I'm currently studying Human Rights Law at LSE and I've learnt how to take notes in a way that helps me learn a huge amount of information easily! Below is a demonstration of how I always make my notes look, using 'Lord of the Flies' as an example.



1. Draw a line

Before you write your notes, the first thing to do is **draw a dotted line** down the middle of the page. This is the maximum length your bullet point can be, so you have to make them short and punchy!

2. Don't overdo it

Reduce the amount of information on a page. Condense a sentence into five or six key **trigger words** which will be easier to remember. And because trigger words are the most crucial information, you know that what you're learning will get you marks in an exam.

3. Keep it colourful

Using colour in our notes can be a powerful tool to help us memorise. But don't just cover your notes randomly with highlighters! Use a **colour-coding system** to help you. For example, you might write all your **key dates** in **red** for History, or all of the **key terms** in your plant biology module in **green**. This will help create a visual association in your brain, making recalling the information easier.

4. A picture paints a thousand words

As colour-coding shows, **visual notes** are easier to remember. Everyone's brain is different, but in general we tend to be better at remembering pictures and images than words and numbers. Pairing some of your bullet points with a related image is an effective way of reinforcing the association because you've given yourself a visual stimulus as well as a verbal one.