

Student name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

 Read the **Basics** and **The academic context** sections of the **Factsheet** and the notes below, then compare thoughts with a partner. What do you like / not like about the notes?



Why? Write summary? Give presentation?

Do (active)	Don't (not active)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">ask questions before readingcheck answers to your questionsKeep brief / only important informationuse own wordscover text / make notes from memory	<ul style="list-style-type: none">take notes without thinkinghighlight or underline textcopy complete sentencescut and paste parts of text

Practice

1  With a partner, match a text a–d with a suitable note-making technique 1–4.

- a a biography of a famous explorer
- b a text explaining how plastic is recycled
- c a text about the advantages and disadvantages of growing tourism
- d a text about changing information technology

- 1 notes in two or more columns
- 2 dates and key points
- 3 linear notes / a spidergram or mind map
- 4 a flow chart

2  Read the text below. Then in pairs, discuss the notes that different students made.

In 1791, Britain needed new maps. The government was worried about a war with France. They wanted to measure the height of hills and river valleys to find the best places to defend the country. These maps were very expensive. They cost about two weeks' salary each. It took nearly 100 years for all of the maps to be finished, and they were used in planning railways and roads.

In the 20th century, people wanted to enjoy cycling or walking, so they needed new maps. Electronics, lasers and photographs transformed the way maps were made. In 1995, Britain became the first country with digital maps that you could buy online. As well as the maps in shops, you can now decide where you want a map for, and how big the scale is, then you can order it online. This is useful for everyone, from town planners to leisure users.

Reem's marking of the text

In 1791, Britain needed new maps. The government was worried about a war with France. They wanted to measure the height of hills and river valleys to find the best places to defend the country. These maps were very expensive. They cost about two weeks' salary each. It took nearly 100 years for all of the maps to be finished, and they were used in planning railways and roads.

Abdul's notes

1791 – Britain needed new maps / Govt. worried about France War / wanted to measure hills + rivers for best places to defend country. Very expensive. 100 years for maps to be finished – used to plan railways / roads.

Aliyah's notes

C18 – British Govt. needed new maps – needed to measure hills / rivers to defend Brit.

from France. V expensive – maps took 100 yrs. – used to plan railways / roads.

C20 – maps for walking + cycling / electronics, lasers, photos introduced

1995 – In Brit. first online digital maps

- 3 Cover the text then look at the three sets of notes in Exercise 2 again. Which are more useful for you if you are going to give a talk on the topic?
- 4  Work with a partner. Use only the notes from Exercise 2 to talk about the topic of the text.
- 5 Read the text below and make notes. Use different techniques for different parts of the text.

Are A-levels too easy?

Students in Britain are getting very good *A-level results. They and their parents should be proud, but that is difficult when everyone tells you the exam is too easy and that your results do not show you are clever.

The number of passes has increased every year for 21 years, and now more than 20% of students get the highest grade. In the 1970s, only 10% got the highest grade, and 20% failed the exam with the lowest grade. Now those percentages are reversed. Important people in education and business say A-level results no longer have value and that they do not show which students should go to the top universities.

Other people say the number of passes is increasing because students are improving and studying harder. They also say that teaching is better, and teachers know how to train students to pass exams. Experts have studied exam questions and they say that recent exams are not easier than exams of 20 years ago.

The situation could be like that in some sports. Every year athletes break records because they are faster and stronger. In the long jump, the officials made the sandpit longer because athletes could jump beyond the end of it. Some people in education say it is time to make A-level exam questions more difficult so that questions test the strongest students.

*A-level = advanced level – exams taken at 18 years of age.

- 6  Compare your notes from Exercise 5 with two classmates. Explain why you have used your techniques. Decide which classmate's notes you like most.

Reflect

- 7 Look back at the notes you made in Exercise 5 and answer the following questions about them:
 - Could you use them to write a summary or give a presentation?
 - What is the most important thing you learnt about making notes from this **Worksheet**?
 - What can you do to make better notes in the future?