

Class: 2A

Name: Wu Hiu Ching, Cicily

Topic: A guide to making notes

Be a wonderful and awesome learner – a guide to making brilliant notes

Nowadays, students usually make notes themselves during lessons for better learning. It seems like everyone around me is cramming for exams all the time, trying to make sense of the scribbles in their notebooks in the hope of getting an A. After trying a bunch of different styles of note-making, I have finally figured out a way to make notes of the seemingly meaningless details in textbooks to be productive for studying and revision. Here are my tips on making good notes.

The reason for making notes

We need to take notes because of our imperfect memory. Moreover, it won't last long. Therefore, making notes is useful to aid the retention of the information in your brain. Also, notes give you an overview of a topic. More importantly, note-making is an effective part of the learning process instead of just acting as reminders. It can tell you how to present your ideas in exams too.

Dos

To make good notes, you should get yourself a decent notebook so that the pages will not get separated. Then, you will not lose them easily. You should use your own words for note-making because it will be much better for your understanding. In addition, you can use symbols or abbreviations, for instance, i.e., etc., > and =. Arrows, circles and lines can be used too. Remember to use your own symbols that you understand!

Don'ts

There are always many points to note. You should not copy large chunks of text from the book. You should not try to write everything down. Moreover, don't write too many sentences but use keywords and concepts. More importantly, as every student has a different way of learning, another person's method may not be suitable for you, so don't blindly follow what other friends or classmates do.

Other information

I suggest you use mind maps to help you conclude a chapter. Also, when the memory of the lesson is still fresh in your mind, it is better for you to clarify what you have learnt by making notes so that you can refresh your memory quicker when you do revision in the future. It helps you to save time too.

Wishes

You had better learn actively. If you are not actively engaged in learning and revision, you can be easily distracted. Hope these tips help you out and allow you to spend your time more productively than ever! Good luck in all your exams and note-making endeavours.