



Summarising a lesson

Turning a lesson into one page that stays in your head.



 Landscape, one side

 One page only

 About 30 minutes

1 Choose your format



Mind map

to connect ideas together.



Sketchnote

to remember through pictures.



Summary sheet

to revise quickly the night before.

The format is your choice. What is marked is what is inside (see overleaf).

2 The method in 5 steps

- 1 Read the whole lesson without writing anything.**

You cannot summarise what you have not understood yet. That reading is never wasted time.
- 2 Pick out the skeleton.**

The headings, the words in bold, the definitions, the formulas: that is what stays. The rest explains.
- 3 Group things together, then choose the centre.**

The step that makes the difference. A lesson runs from start to finish; your summary is sorted by ideas.
- 4 Sketch it in pencil before you write.**

Put down the big blocks and the arrows lightly first. You can rub out and move things: that is the point.
- 5 Colour and drawings last.**

One colour per idea, kept to the end. And once the content is complete, decorate: that is what will make you read it again.



Summarising a lesson

3 The step that makes the difference: grouping

The Electricity lesson on the site runs from start to finish. A mind map sorts it by ideas: three branches, and everything fits in.

The lesson, in lesson order

1. Conductors and insulators
2. The quantities: I, U
3. The junction rule
4. The loop rule
5. Resistance and Ohm's law
6. Power

group them



Your map, sorted by ideas

THE MATERIALS

conductor · insulator

1

THE LAWS

the junction rule · the loop rule · Ohm's law

3 · 4 · 5

THE QUANTITIES

current · voltage · resistance · power

2 · 5 · 6

Resistance goes in two branches: that is allowed.



There is no single right way to group. Two pupils can sort the same lesson differently: choose the families that help you remember.

4 What a summary must include



The definitions

in the exact words of the lesson.



The quantities

symbol, unit, measuring instrument.



The formulas

and a worked example with numbers for each.



The links

an arrow saying what connects two ideas.



The important diagrams

redraw them by hand, a diagram cannot be described.

5 Do / Avoid

Do

- ✓ Key words: three or four per branch.
- ✓ One colour per idea, kept to the end.
- ✓ Formulas on their own, written large.
- ✓ Every arrow carries a word.
- ✓ A diagram instead of a paragraph.

Avoid

- ✗ Whole sentences copied from the lesson.
- ✗ All in one colour — or in ten colours.
- ✗ Formulas buried in the middle of the text.
- ✗ Arrows that link without saying how.
- ✗ Decorating before the content is complete.



Check before handing it in

- ✓ It fits on a single page
- ✓ Every quantity has its symbol and unit
- ✓ One colour = one idea, all the way through

- ✓ The definitions use the exact words
- ✓ The formulas and the diagrams are there
- ✓ I can say it back without the lesson

