

Different Study Techniques

WHERE TO START?

WHAT TO DO?

HOW?

These are some classic questions students ask themselves when starting studying. Teachers also ask themselves this when planning what work to do in class. Here are some guidelines on where to start, what to do and how.

The Basic Strategy

Overview/Summary: » Break up your work into sections.

» Make a list of all the different sections.

» Under each section heading list the different subsections or parts of that section.

» You can set this summary out in a table, mind map, flow diagram or in bullet form, whatever works best for you.

Understanding:

» Read through your work to see if you understand everything.

» Use your dictionary to help explain any words.

» Use your atlas to find places you may need to know.

» If there are any parts you still don't understand you need to ask your teacher or a friend to explain them. There is no point studying something you don't understand.

Shape and Structure: » There are a number of ways of making study notes. You might need to practice the different ways to find out which one suits you.

» The shape and the structure will sometimes also be better suited to different subjects and pieces of information.

» Some of the structures you can use are writing in bullet form, making a table, making a tree diagram, making a flow diagram or a mind map.

» Your note writing needs to be concise. By using short-hand, symbols for words, pictures, shapes and colour you can make your notes more concise and easier to remember.

Key Points:

» Before starting to write your study notes make sure you have made an overview and read through your notes to make sure you understand it.

Now you can use your overview to tell you where to start. Usually a good idea is to start at the beginning.

» Once you have chosen what to study you need to choose which structure will suit the information best.

- » Start by reading through the notes from class. Highlight the most important bits of information. This should usually be one or two words from a sentence. Be careful of highlighting too much.
- » Re-write the highlighted bits as summarised notes. Try to stay concise and use your structure.
- » K.I.S.S is a good thing to remember. KeeP It Short and Sweet.
- » Try to do small sections at a time. This means highlight a subsection and then summarise. Don't highlight the whole page and then only start to summarise. Do small bits at a time.

Analyse:

- » While you are making your notes you can be talking to yourself and explaining to yourself what you are doing.
- » Think about what you are writing.
- » Use your own words.
- » When you have finished doing a piece of summarising, read through your summarised notes to see that they make sense and that you haven't changed the meaning of the information.
- » When you have finished a whole section read through your summarised notes.

Self-testing:

- » There are a number of ways of self-testing. You will need to practice them all to see which suits you best.
- » One way is to try and re-write you summarised notes from memory.
- » Another way is to go through old exam papers, tests and assignments.
- » Another way is to tell someone else what you have been learning. By telling them you can see how well you know your information and how well you understand it.
- » After you have used one of these ways go through your notes and check to see what you got right and what you got wrong.
- » Try to learn from your mistakes.

Try to use as many senses as possible when studying. By writing or drawing you are using your hands and sense of touch. By writing and drawing you are using your sense of sight. By talking to yourself, and yes this does sound crazy but it works, you are using your sense of hearing. By lighting a candle or burning essential oils in a burner, ask mom and dad first, you are using your sense of smell. Some essential oils are known to increase concentration and focus.

EXAMPLES OF DIFFERENT STRUCTURES AND SHAPES TO USE

1) Writing in bullet form

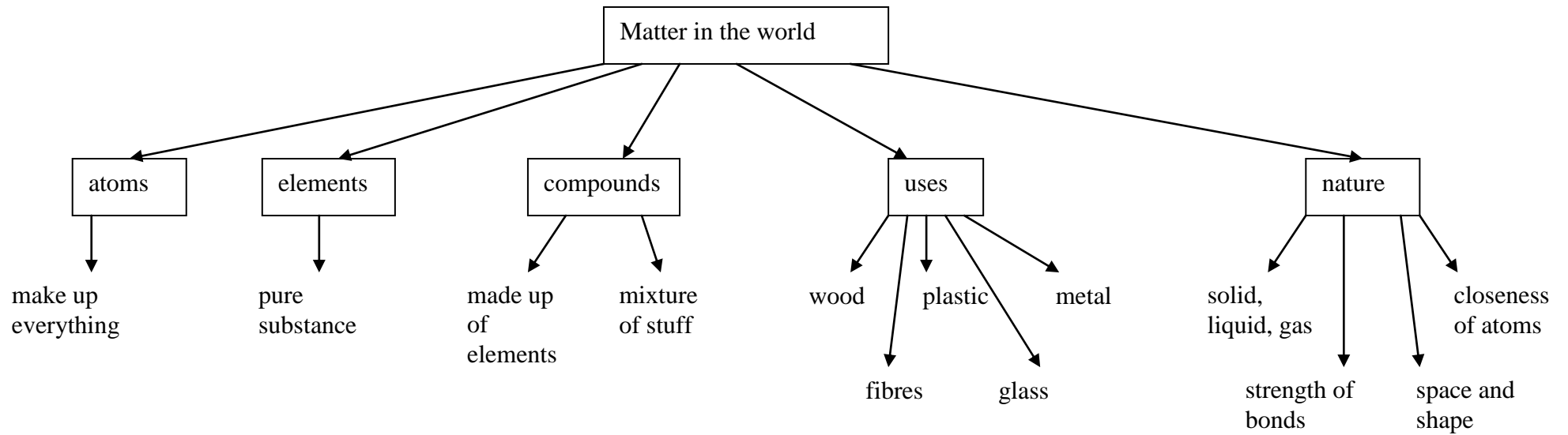
Matter in the world

- atoms
 - i. makes up everything
- elements
 - i. pure substance
- compounds
 - i. made up of other elements
 - ii. mixture of stuff
- uses
 - i. wood
 - ii. plastic
 - iii. metal
 - iv. fibres
 - v. glass
- nature
 - i. solid, liquid, gas
 - ii. closeness of atoms
 - iii. strength of bond
 - iv. space and shape

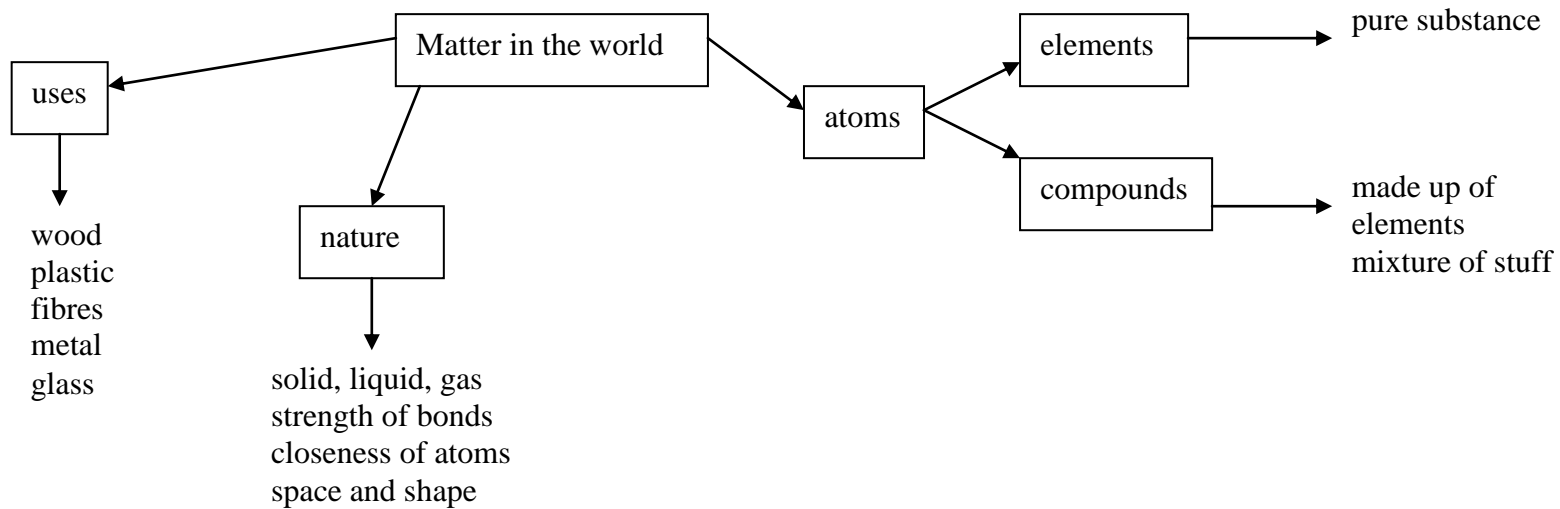
2) Table form

Matter in the world				
atoms	elements	compounds	uses	nature
make up everything	pure substance	made up of other elements	wood	solid, liquid, gas
		mixture of stuff	plastic	closeness of atoms
			metal	strength of bonds
			fibres	space and shape
			glass	

3) Tree diagram



4) Flow diagram



5) Mind map

