

Task 4 – taking notes

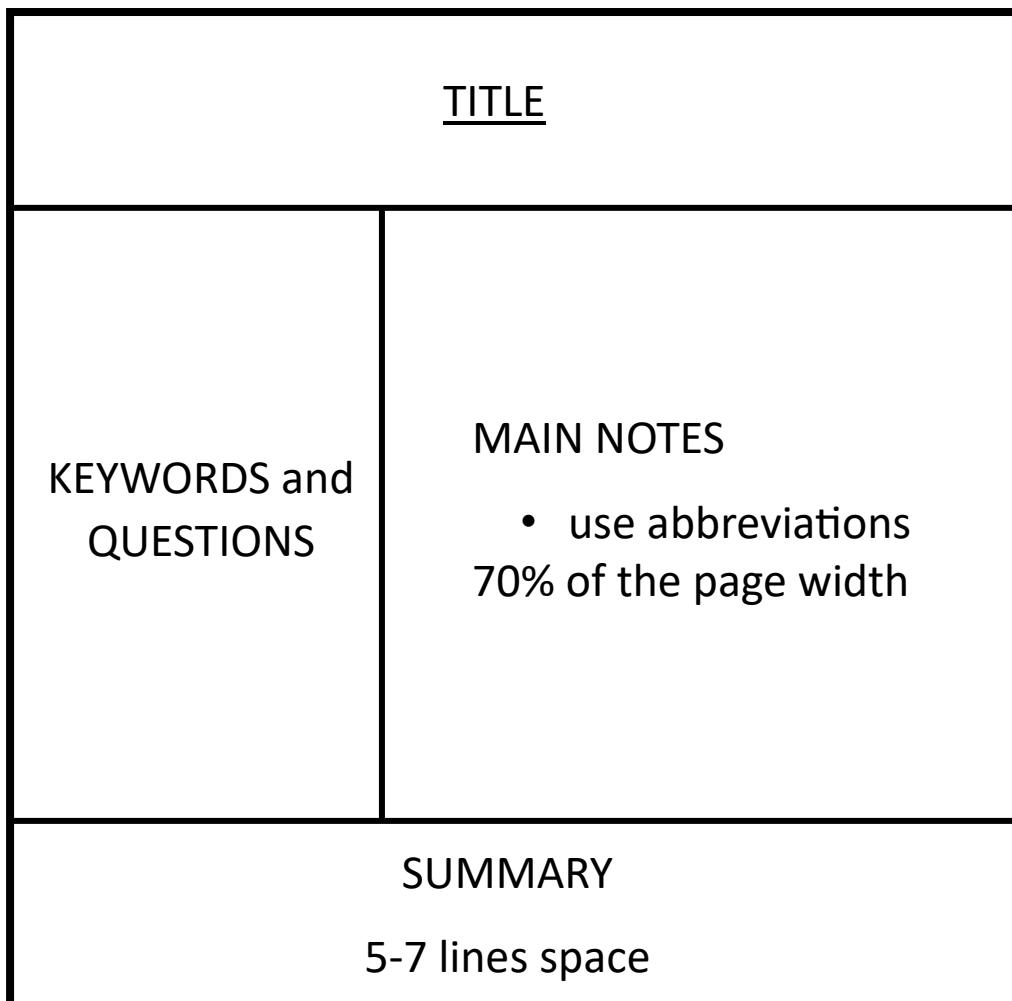
One of the skills you will need in your A level studies is note taking. There are many different strategies for taking notes depending on what purpose the notes have. Taking notes can help to ensure you are actively listening by requiring you to think about what you are writing as well as being material to use in when reviewing later.

You are going to look at two different note taking strategies.

1. Cornell note taking system.

This system is good for making notes for later review. The notes are organised and allow you to identify major ideas and concepts.

A page is divided into four sections as shown in the diagram.



The actual notes go in the main column with keywords and questions in the left-hand column. This helps to highlight where you have written each bit of information. If you write questions in this column, then you can use these for active revision later.

Try to make intentional notes – pull out key points and think about the topic rather than simply writing everything down.

A publicly available module is available here <https://lsc.cornell.edu/how-to-study/taking-notes/cornell-note-taking-system/> .

2. Standard Linear note taking

Linear notes are written in a list structure down the page. They are organised with headings, subheadings, or numbered points. The notes are organised and help you to actively listen but might be hard to use directly for active review.

Again, try to be intentional and focus on what you write down rather than copying down every word. Use abbreviations where possible.

Please watch the video at <https://youtu.be/7dzoGb-icW4> which is a talk given at the Royal Institution by Professor Jonathan Pettitt in 2022.

The talk is called “What Darwin won’t tell you about evolution” and explains how living systems tend to make simple mechanisms more complicated than they need to be. He shows how such ‘unnecessary complexity’ can both restrict and expand an organism’s evolutionary potential.

- During the first 28 minutes of the talk use the Cornell note taking system to make notes and then pause the video (at the start of the “What can *C. elegans* teach us about genetics?” section).
- For the rest of the talk take notes using the standard linear note taking method.
- Reflect on which:
 - was easier?
 - could be more useful later?
 - helped you concentrate on the material?