

Faculté : Mathématiques et Informatique  
 Département: Socle Commun Mathématique et Informatique  
 Module: Written Expression Techniques  
 Module Convenor: Dr Abdelhamid  
 Level: 1st year



## NOTE MAKING

Effective note-making is a key writing skill, with a number of practical uses. Good note-making techniques lead to accurate essays. Although you are the only person who will read your notes, clarity and organisation are still important.

The main reasons for note making are:

- to keep a record of reading/lectures
- to revise for exams
- to help remember main points
- to prepare for essays

### Exercise 1

Study the following example and make notes.

#### WHY WOMEN LIVE LONGER

Despite the overall increase in life expectancy in Britain over the past century, women still live significantly longer than men. In fact, in 1900 men could expect to live to 49 and women to 52, a difference of three years, while now the figures are 74 and 79, which shows that the gap has increased to five years. Various reasons have been suggested for this situation, such as the possibility that men may die earlier because they take more risks. But a team of British scientists have recently found a likely answer in the immune system, which protects the body from diseases. The thymus is the organ which produces the T cells which actually combat illnesses. Although both sexes suffer from deterioration of the thymus as they age, women appear to have more T cells in their bodies than men of the same age. It is this, the scientists believe, that gives women better protection from potentially fatal diseases such as influenza and pneumonia.

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### Exercise 2

Underline four key points in the following text.

## THE SIXTH WAVE?

Lord May, the president of the Royal Society, has claimed that the world is facing a wave of extinctions similar to the five mass extinctions of past ages. He calculates that the current rate of extinction is between 100 and 1,000 times faster than the historical average. The cause of previous extinctions, such as the one which killed the dinosaurs, is uncertain, but was probably an external event such as collision with a comet. However the present situation is caused by human consumption of plants, which has resulted in a steady increase in agriculture and a consequent reduction in habitat for animals. Although many people are still hungry, food production has increased by 100% since 1965. Lord May also pointed out that it was very difficult to make accurate estimates as nobody knew how many species of animals lived on the planet. So far 1.5 million species had been named, but the true figure might be as high as 100 million. Our ignorance of this made it almost impossible to work out the actual rate of extinction. However, the use of intelligent guesses suggests that losses over the past century were comparable with the extinctions of earlier periods, evidence of which is found in the fossil record.

### Effective Note-Making Strategies

#### The Cornell Strategy

Using this strategy requires dividing the page into three sections. The right column section should be larger than the left one. In the right column insert your initial notes and in the left column record the key terms, cues or points that will help you recall the information. In the bottom section, write a summary of the notes in your own words.

#### The Mapping Strategy

Using the mapping strategy requires drawing a flowchart of bubbles connected with lines or arrows. This strategy is helpful for visual learners. It helps them create relationships between concepts and ideas.

#### The Sentence Strategy

This strategy refers to using a list of sentences to record key points. You can use numbers, abbreviations, listings and symbols to make reviewing your notes easier for you to understand.

### Exercise 3

Read the following articles and make notes.

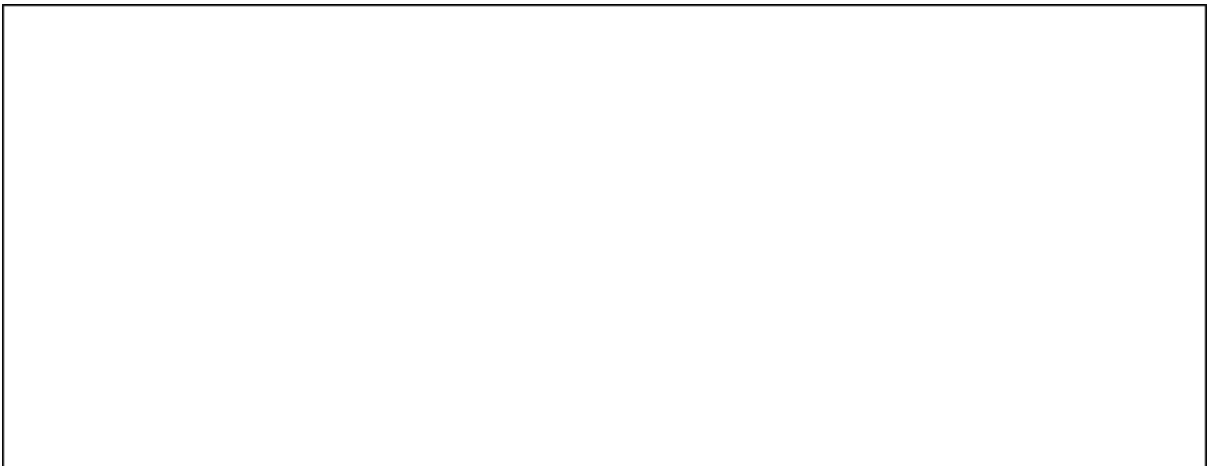
## STUDYING SQUID

Before the British occupation of the Falkland Islands in 1833 most of the sailors who went there were mainly interested in collecting oil and skins from the whales, seals and penguins which flourished in the South Atlantic. The British introduced sheep farming, but since this

became less profitable after the 1960s the islanders have been forced to pay more attention to the contents of the island waters.

These waters are rich in squid, and the sale of fishing licences for this harvest has funded research to allow the stocks to be managed efficiently. There are two kinds of squid around the Falklands; *Illex* is eaten in East Asia, while *Loligo* is popular in Spain. The latter was found to breed at two periods in the year; one season is May to July and the other is October and November. This second period, which is summer in the South Atlantic, coincides with the local penguin breeding season and makes the baby squid more vulnerable. As a result, the scientists suggested that the fishing season for *Loligo* should be postponed for a few months to allow the stock to recover, and when this was done the fishermen found that they had a better catch than before.

The other squid, *Illex*, was found to have a different pattern, swimming south from Brazil to the Falklands in summer, and then back north again. To deal with a species that migrates through the waters of several countries it has been necessary to set up an agreement between the governments concerned to restrict the fishing season in order to allow squid numbers to build up.



### MALARIA FIGHTS BACK

Drug-resistant strains of malaria, already one of the world's major killers, are steadily spreading across the globe. The deadly strains have established themselves in South East Asia and South America, and have recently begun to spread across India and Africa. Formerly under control in many areas, the disease now threatens two billion people living in more than 100 countries.

Estimates suggest that there are now more than 350 million cases of malaria a year – a total four times the level of the early 1970s. In Africa alone the disease kills one million children each year.

Several factors are responsible for this disturbing development. Spreading world poverty has deprived nations of funds for sanitation, so that many health projects have been stopped, while increased movements of migrant workers and tourists have carried infections more rapidly from one country to another. At the same time, the overuse of drugs, especially antibiotics, has led to the establishment of resistant strains of diseases.

As well as this, hopes that genetic engineers might soon develop the world's first malaria vaccine, a long-sought goal, have been questioned recently by several scientists. 'There are so

many strains of malaria parasite,' said one scientist, 'and each is able to alter its chemical surface and trick its way past the body's defences. We'd need a remarkable vaccine to cope with that. However, a malaria vaccine is now undergoing human trials and may be available for use if proved successful.'

