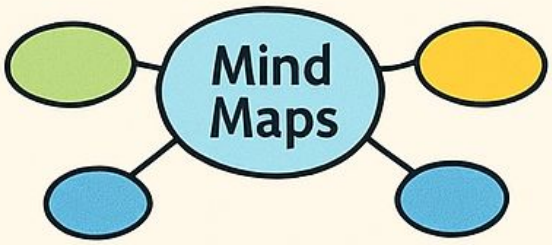
Study Skills Handout:
Preparing for AP1 & AP2

1. Creating Mind Maps



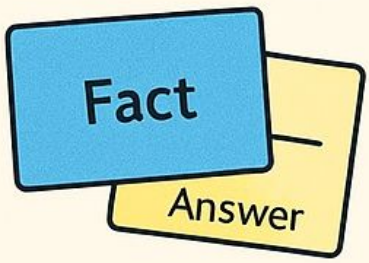
Why use a mind map?

- Helps you see how ideas connect
- Makes revision quicker and easier
- Good for visual learners

How to create a mind map:

1. Write the main topic in the centre.
2. Draw branches for the main ideas
3. Add smaller branches for details and examples
4. Use colours, symbols, or pictures to make it fun and easy to remem-

2. Creating Flash Cards



Why use flash cards?

- Great for memorising information quickly
- You can test yourself or others
- Easy to carry and revise anytime

How to make flash cards:

1. Write a question, keyword, or term on one side
2. Write the answer or explanation on the other side
3. Keep them short and simple
4. Test yourself regularly and shuffle the cards to challenge your memory

3. How to Summarise Notes



Why summarise notes?

Helps you understand and remember key information

- Makes revision quicker
- Organises your learning clearly
- Keep it simple — focus on the important facts

Top Tip!

Combine these skills! For example, summarise your notes first, then make a mind map or flash cards to help you revise.

Guidance and Support

To prepare for upcoming assessments:

- Make a plan: Write down the topics you need to revise and spread them out over a few days or weeks.
- Set up a study space: Quiet, tidy, and free from distractions.
- Gather your materials: Books, notes, pens, and past questions/assessments you've completed ready before you begin.

Tip: Start early — last-minute cramming causes stress!

Use the following revision methods:

- Create a 'Mind Map' to determine your knowledge of a topic
- Summarise notes in your own words
- Make flashcards about key words and concepts
- Ask a family member or friend to quiz you

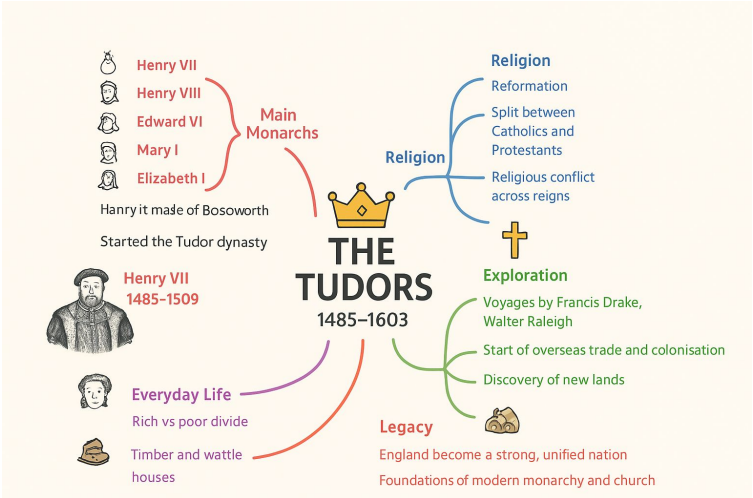
Tip: Study in 25–30 minute chunks with short breaks in between.

On the Day:

- Get plenty of rest the night before.
- Eat breakfast to fuel your brain.
- Arrive early and stay calm.
- Read questions carefully — plan your time and check your answers.

Tip: Believe in yourself — your preparation will pay off!

Example of a mind map about The Tudors



Example of a set of flash cards

Note, the title would be written on the opposite side of the card.

Simile A comparison between two things or ideas using 'like' or 'as' to emphasise similarities	**Metaphor** A comparison between two things or ideas where one becomes the other	**Allusion** A reference made to something outside of the work, usually a well known historical event or literary work	**Symbol** A concrete object that represents an abstract idea, typically central to the theme of the work
Motif The repetition of an image or idea throughout a work to develop a theme	**Tone** The speaker's attitude towards the subject of a text, developed through diction and syntax	**Mood** The emotional response a writer evokes from the reader, developed in the setting or atmosphere of a text	**Imagery** Sensory details in a text, engaging as many of the fives senses as possible in the description