

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

Making notes is a skilled task, develops over years, and everyone has their own variant! The exercises in this unit are a brief intro. The best way to learn this skill, however, is to do it; every page you study should be read with a pencil and notebook by your side. PS research has shown the hand-WRITING the notes 'fixes' the information in your brain better than typing or highlighting.

World War One

4. Making Notes II – Timelines

When I was at university, I always began the study of any new topic by building a timeline. A timeline helps fix the sequence of events, around which you can develop your understanding. Extended backwards and forwards, it gives insight into causes and consequences.

Facts within a 'story' (narrative) are more easily-remembered than 'factors' (analysis). Knowledge of a timeline will be vitally useful for most of the AQA's 'Write an account of...' and OCR's 'Outline how...' exam questions.

Online timelines are usually useless. Instead:

1. Start by using [the webpage](#) to make your own timeline.

Scan-read down the page, select the most important dates mentioned, and jot them down, with a short note as to what happened, so as to create table like the following:

Date	Event
5-16 August 1914	_____
_____	Battle of Mons: _____
26-29 August 1914	_____
_____	_____
_____	Battle of the Marne & the 'Race to the Sea': _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
11 November 1918	_____

At this point, check to see if you have enough of a frame to write a decent narrative story of the First World War. If you do, you can stop. If not, go looking for facts to 'plug the gaps' or sort out any puzzles.

Do not list too many events – you need to remember them! More than fifteen is probably too many.

2. Go through your work on the Cold War. Good topics to have timelines on would be:

- [The Growing Crisis, 1900-14](#)
- [The Steps to War, June-August 1914](#)
- [The Gallipoli Campaign](#)
- [The Battle of Verdun \(Feb-Oct 1916\)](#)
- [The Western Front in 1917](#)
- [The War at Sea](#)
- [America enters the War](#)
- [The Events of 1918](#)