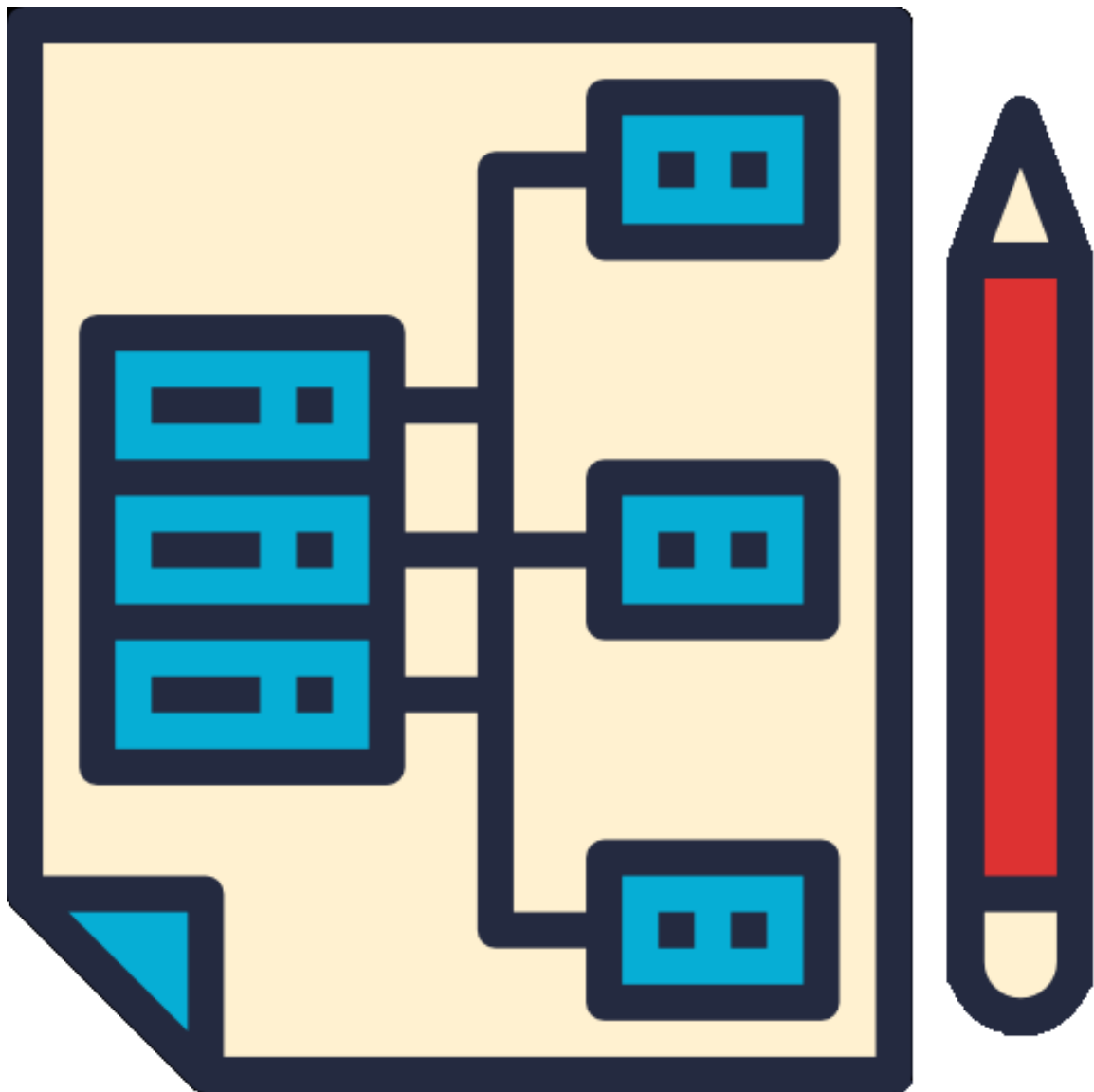# The essay subject revision plan

Exam unit:

Session 0: Overview of the Exam Unit

**What we're doing**:
      Making a Mindmap of the whole unit

Why we're doing it:
      So we can navigate the topics in the unit and link them to questions (it's going to be a visual index page really)

Welcome to session 0 of revision. The purpose of this session is to get together an idea of all the topics for the exam unit and how they link together.

If we can do this we know when looking at an essay title which bits of the course are relevant and where to look in our memory (or book!)
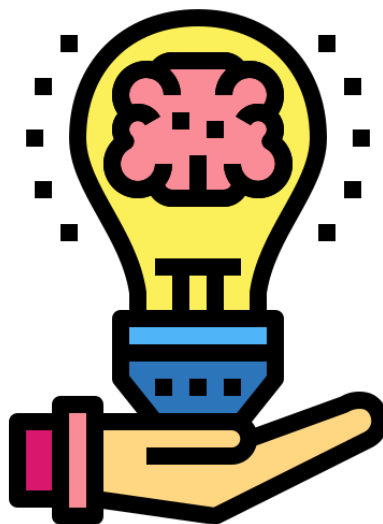
This is a fab time to use a Mindmap! Grab some blank A4 paper (or tape 2 together to make A3) and start drawing one up.
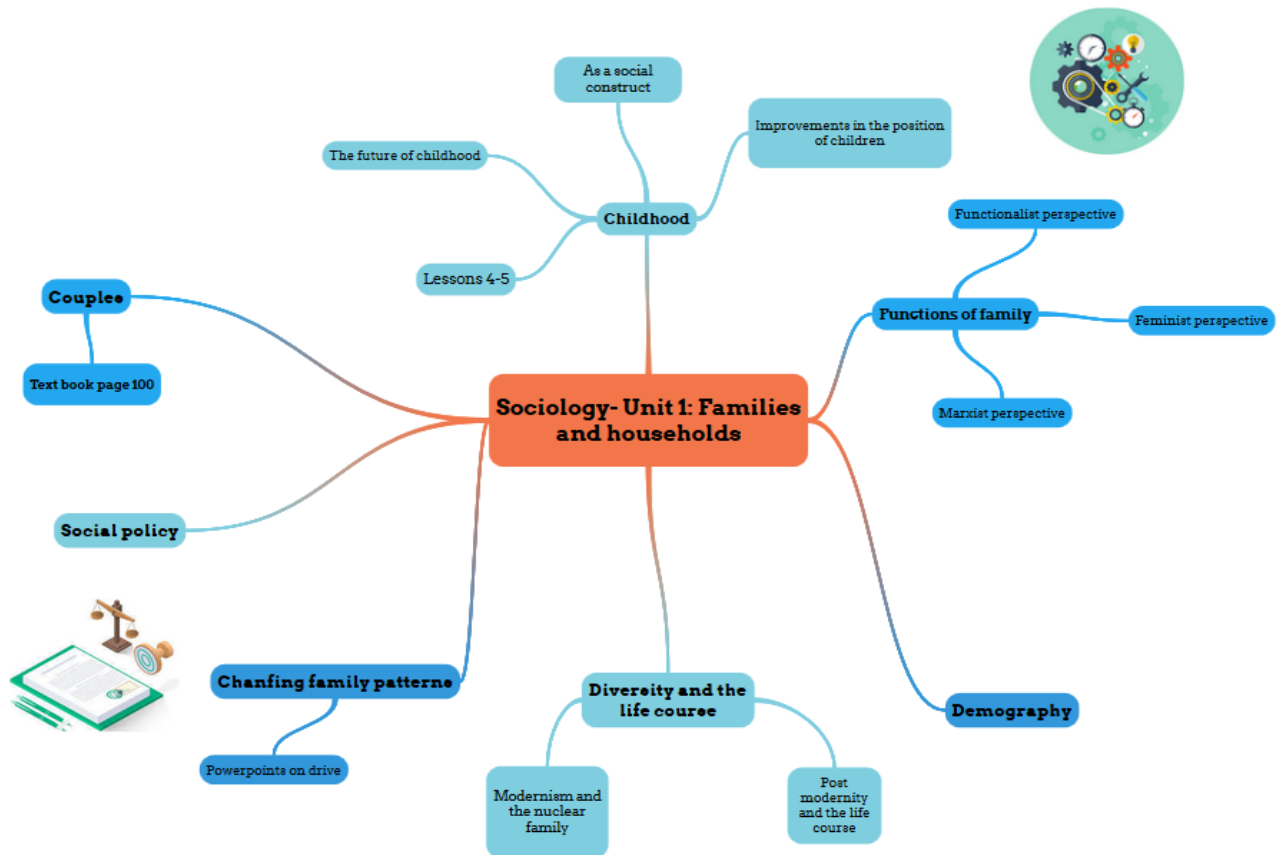
Things to include:
- Put the Exam Unit title in the middle, and draw the topics branching off.
- Pointers to where you can find content in your notes
- The questions at the core of each topic

Pro tip: Before reaching for notes fill in as many subtopics (and sub-sub-topics branching off them) as possible from memory. Really rack your brains and see what's there. Let's get that Active recall going!

Example: Unit mindmap

Keep it general, and include reminders about where you can find the facts, figures, and key information for each subtopic (I've included some page numbers and lesson numbers). *It's a good idea to add to this over time!*

Sociology- Unit 1: Families and households

Childhood
- As a social construct
- Improvements in the position of children
- The future of childhood
- Lessons 4-5

Functions of family
- Functionalist perspective
- Feminist perspective
- Marxist perspective

Couples
- Text book page 100

Social policy

Changing family patterns
- Powerpoints on drive

Diversity and the life course
- Modernism and the nuclear family
- Post modernity and the life course

Demography

Exam unit:

Topic:

Session 1: Ideas and smaller subtopics

What we're doing:
> Making a mindmap for a specific topic identified in Session 0

Why we're doing it:
> To get an understanding of the B I G G E R picture in the topic before we start worrying about facts.

This session is going to be about getting together an understanding of the B I G G E R picture in this topic. What's important here is less <u>specific facts</u> and more how <u>ideas link together.</u>

The information for this diagram is going to come from your notes, printouts, and any other resources (so it's a good time to organise!)

Things to include:
- Subtopics
- Key arguments and questions in each subtopic
- Theorists and their arguments
- Key terms.

Pro tip: Keep the mindmap when you're done, it will be really useful when doing practice essays in session 3 when you need to know what ideas and points are relevant to a question

Example: Subtopic Mindmap

You should end up with something similar to this after session 1.
It is important to include somewhere what the key questions each topic is asking you to consider are and include them on here. This keeps our revision focussed and makes sure we're trying to understand information in the right context.
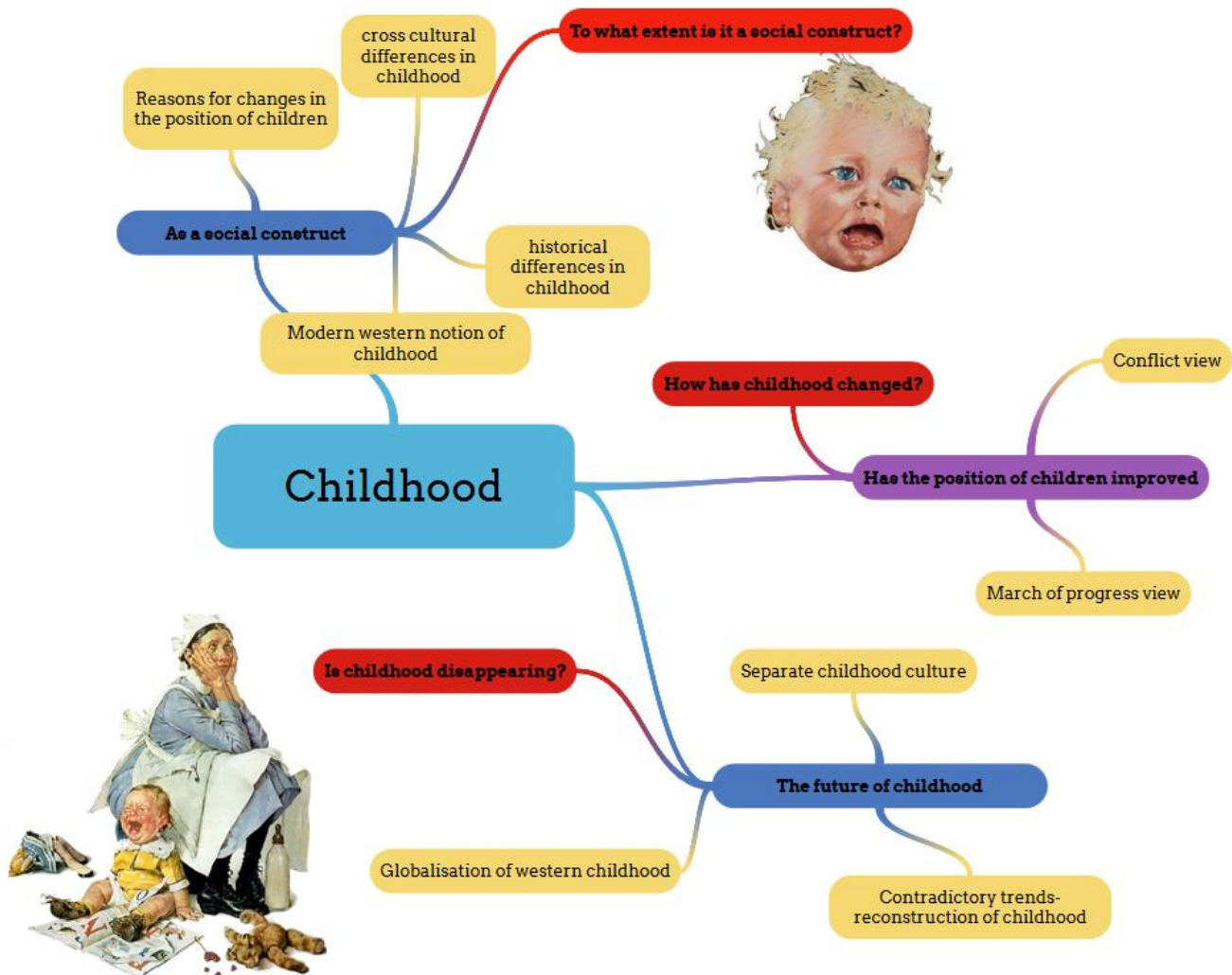
Session 2: Facts, information, points

This session is going to be about getting some *#FACTS* and arguments out of our notes and onto some homemade revision resources.

- For this sort of information <u>flash cards</u> and <u>posters</u> are the best.

Start your poster with the Subtopic at the top and a little paragraph to set the scene of what's on the poster.

Group your poster into the subsections you've identified and add in relevant:
- **statistics**,
- **quotes**
- useful **arguments**
- interesting **points** you can make

This content is going to come from your notes and class resources, we're going to look through these now and get the really good stuff and then we have a single source of facts and don't need to go through our whole folder every time we need to do a practice question.

Your poster is kind of a representation of your mindmap from session 1, only with much more detail. There's going to be more _numbers_, _names, and dates_.

Pro tip: These numbers, names, and dates are going to give us AO1 marks and the points and arguments are going to be AO2. If you can then also maybe do a review section about which points and arguments you like the most or least and we can start getting some AO3 marks.

Session 3: Question time (with planning!)

We've now got:
- A Mindmap to help us recall and find the smaller topics in our subtopic.
- A poster with all the facts and info we could ever need
- An understanding of how these things fit together

It's time to _try some questions._

This session is about applying the work you've done so far to an exam question.

<u>Part one</u>
It's **REALLY REALLY REALLY** important you plan your answer. We're going to do 2 questions to practice this.

The first question we're going to use all our resources to write the <u>perfect</u> answer with all the <u>best</u> knowledge and links. We need to plan so we have time to use our resources to nail this.

- Use the mindmap to find the which topics are useful and how they link to the question
- Use the poster to get the points you're going to make, information to back it up, and any counter or supporting arguments.

Try planning the second question without looking at your notes and see how you get on. Take your time and test your recall. You can use a timer to see how long you take but take as long as you like and we'll practice to get this routine down and bring the time down so you can complete this process and the essay in the exam.

<u>Part two</u>
Now you've written your essay, look back at your notes and see if there's anything you struggled to remember that would have been useful for you.
Now go back to your Mindmap for the subtopic and check this argument or link is there

- if it isn't: add it in, now we're a bit more likely to remember it and it's there for planning future essays.
- If it is: write yourself a little reminder about why it's useful or a little bit more info about it. The reason it's been forgotten is we aren't linking it to that bit of content, so we need to write a reminder of how it ties in.

That's it!
Repeat these sessions for each subtopic and see how you get on. If you find better ways to do these steps or revision activities that work better for you then go for it.
Remember the key thing I'm trying to get across here is building these links between subtopics and a main topic, and between the different arguments so you can pick the right content for your essay.
If there's something you know you forget more often (maybe arguments, and your own evaluation) then add these to the relevant poster