

WRITING DEVELOPMENT

Making notes is a skilled task, develops over years, and everyone has their own variant! Exs 5, 8, 12 & 13 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.

Germany and the Treaty

5. Making Notes I – turning notes back into full text

TOP TIP: a sure way to appropriate the content of a text is change of form. Anything will do – into a story, an analogy, a cartoon, theatre. Change of form forces the info to go through your brain, and making it come out differently forces it to understand. Making notes will do this, and has the benefit that, at the end, you have something to revise from.]

Let's start by seeing an exemplar set of notes.

Each cloze exercise in this unit produces a pdf set of notes (so when you have made your own notes on each webpage, you can compare them against what someone else has done).

Here is an example from the [pdf notes](#) on the webpage on *Germany and the Treaty*:

Clause 231: Ger denied blame. Soldier sent to sign refused, calling it a "LIE."

Clause 231 did not physically harm Ger but hurt national pride → desire to overturn ToV.

[The character '→' is a commonly-used abbreviation for 'leading to'/'resulting in']

It is the note on this paragraph:

The Germans hated Clause 231; they said they were not to **Blame** for the war. The soldier sent to sign the Treaty refused to sign it – 'To say such a thing would be a lie,' he said. Clause 231 did not physically harm Germany, but it hurt Germany's pride – and it was this, as much as anything else, that made them want to overturn the treaty.

1. Study the note and the original paragraph together, noticing how the note-maker has condensed the ideas into the note. At one point a whole sentence has been compressed into three words, while another is copied almost word for word – the aim has been to note only the key ideas and facts.

2a. Without looking at the webpage, convert the following note into sentences.

Reparations: Claimed intended to STARVE their children. Initially refused to pay; only started after Fr & Br invaded (Jan 1921).

2b. Repeat the exercise for this note:

Army: seen as leaving Ger defenceless. Initially refused to reduce; SCUTTLED fleet rather than hand it over. Army did not accept it had been defeated → DOLCHSTOSSLEGENDE (= blaming politicians).

Now check your answers against the text in [Section 2](#) of the webpage – there is no 'right' or 'wrong' answer, but analysing how the note-taker has compressed the ideas and facts from the text into the notes will help you when you come to make your own notes.