GCSEPod
Pod Book

Active Learning with Pods

The activities in this book are designed to help cement the learning from the Pods you watch. We would recommend you start a Pod Book to keep all your work together. This is as simple as finding an empty jotter or notepad, and using it to complete the following activities.

By dedicating time, being active and revisiting Pods and activities, you'll ensure you are being effective with your learning time.

1. Choose the Pod or Pods you want to watch
2. Complete an activity from this booklet
3. Don't be afraid of repeating activities

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Activities

1. Watch a Pod once and then list 5 or more pieces of information from memory. Watch it a second time to check the information you remembered is correct. Aim to improve on this score next time.

   Stretch: Can you add another 3+ pieces of information after your second watch?
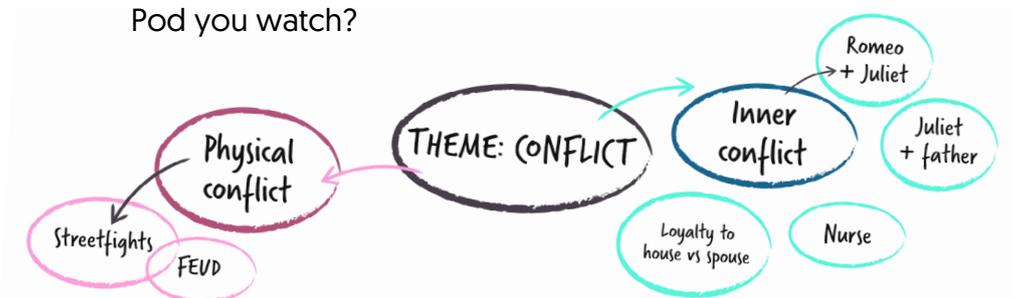
2. Write a one paragraph summary of the pod, selecting the key points.

   Stretch: Can you quote or reference the Pod?

3. Create a spider diagram or mind map of the information in the Pod. Making it as colourful as possible will help you visualise it later. See below for an example of a spider diagram!

   Stretch: Can you link this spider diagram or mind map to another Pod, building on it with the new information from each Pod you watch?

4. Write an exam style question about the topic of the Pod then answer the question in full using the Pod to help you.

5. Watch a Pod, then create a lesson to teach someone else about the information in the Pod.

6. Select pieces of information from a Pod and rank the information in order of importance with the most important at the top and the least important at the bottom.
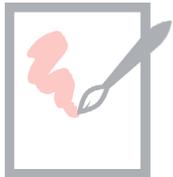
   Stretch: Write at least two sentences justifying why you have ranked it this way.

7. Complete activity 6 and then select the pieces of information that are key to someone fully understanding the content of the Pod.

8. Select pieces of information from a Pod and rank the information in order of most difficult to easiest to remember.

9. Turn the Pod into six images – one per key piece of information. The images must represent the information in the Pod.

   Stretch: Write a sentence under each image explaining your thinking.

10. Watch a topic, title or single Pod and create a set of around 6–8 symbols to represent the key pieces of information. Annotate your symbols.

    For example, for Romeo and Juliet you might have some of the following:
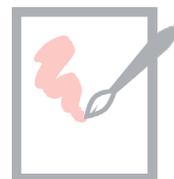
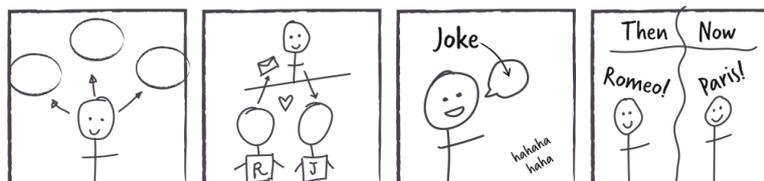   a. Reduce this down to half the number of symbols, choosing the 3–4 most important.

11. Create a presentation or lesson to explain the content of a Pod or Pods as if you're teaching it to a 6-year-old. Think about the language you use to explain the content.

12. Choose a Pod and before you watch it storyboard what you think should be included. Then watch the Pod. How much of your information was in the Pod? See below for an example of a storyboard!

    Stretch: Can you justify why you would include the information you did?

    Character: The Nurse

    | Who she is – Capulet, servant, Juliet's closest friend | Plot device – introduces R+J and is the go-between | Comedic role Blank verse etc | Hypocritical? "Marry with the County" |

13. Identify the most important Pods in a topic or title. Can you justify why they are the most important?

    Stretch: Have you based your decision on your own knowledge, the exam or the subject?

14. Create personal playlists for each subject:
    • Red = topics I'm least confident with
    • Amber = topics I'm ok with
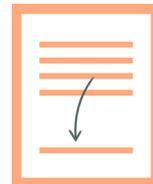   • Green = topics I'm most confident with

15. Timetable your Pod watching using the results from Activity 14. Remember not to only focus on Red pods.

16. Watch a Pod and write out the three most important pieces of information ranking them 1–3.
    a. Briefly explain each piece of information in 1–3 using two sentences for each.
    b. Go back though and cross out the least important sentence so that you end up with only one key sentence for each important piece of information.

17. Reduce the key information in a Pod to 12 words.

18. Reduce the information from a Pod into a 140 character Tweet – remember spaces and punctuation count as characters.

19. Sort the information in a Pod into 2–3 categories then think of a title for each category.

Try organising your thoughts like this!

Category 1   Category 2   Category 3

20. Watch a Pod and write down 3 questions you'd like to ask an expert on this subject.

21. Watch a Pod or group of Pods and come up with 20 quiz questions and answers to ask a friend.

    Stretch: Complete this activity with a friend. Only allow them to watch each Pod once – how many do they get right? Then get them to create a new test for you to answer.

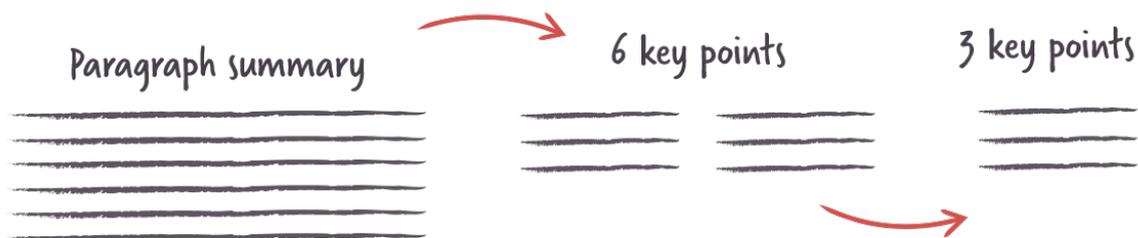22. Watch a Pod or group of Pods and note down:

    a. 5 things I already know.

    b. 5 new pieces of information.

    c. 5 things I need to know more about and where I will find that information – which Pods I will watch.

23. Reduce the information in a Pod:

    a. Write out a 1-2 paragraph summary of the information in the Pod.

    b. Reduce that information to 6 points.

    c. Reduce it again to the main 3 key points.

Your process might look a bit like this:

Paragraph summary → 6 key points → 3 key points

24. Bullet point the information in a Pod then watch the next Pod and do the same. Is the information strongly linked or loosely linked? Represent this with a bold or broken line.

    Continue to watch more Pods, making connections between them all, until you build up a knowledge map.

    Stretch: Annotate the lines between Pods to explain the links. Can you make links to other subjects or topics?