

Thinking maps

- What is a thinking map?
- How can thinking maps improve revision and exam answers?
- Who says they are a good idea?

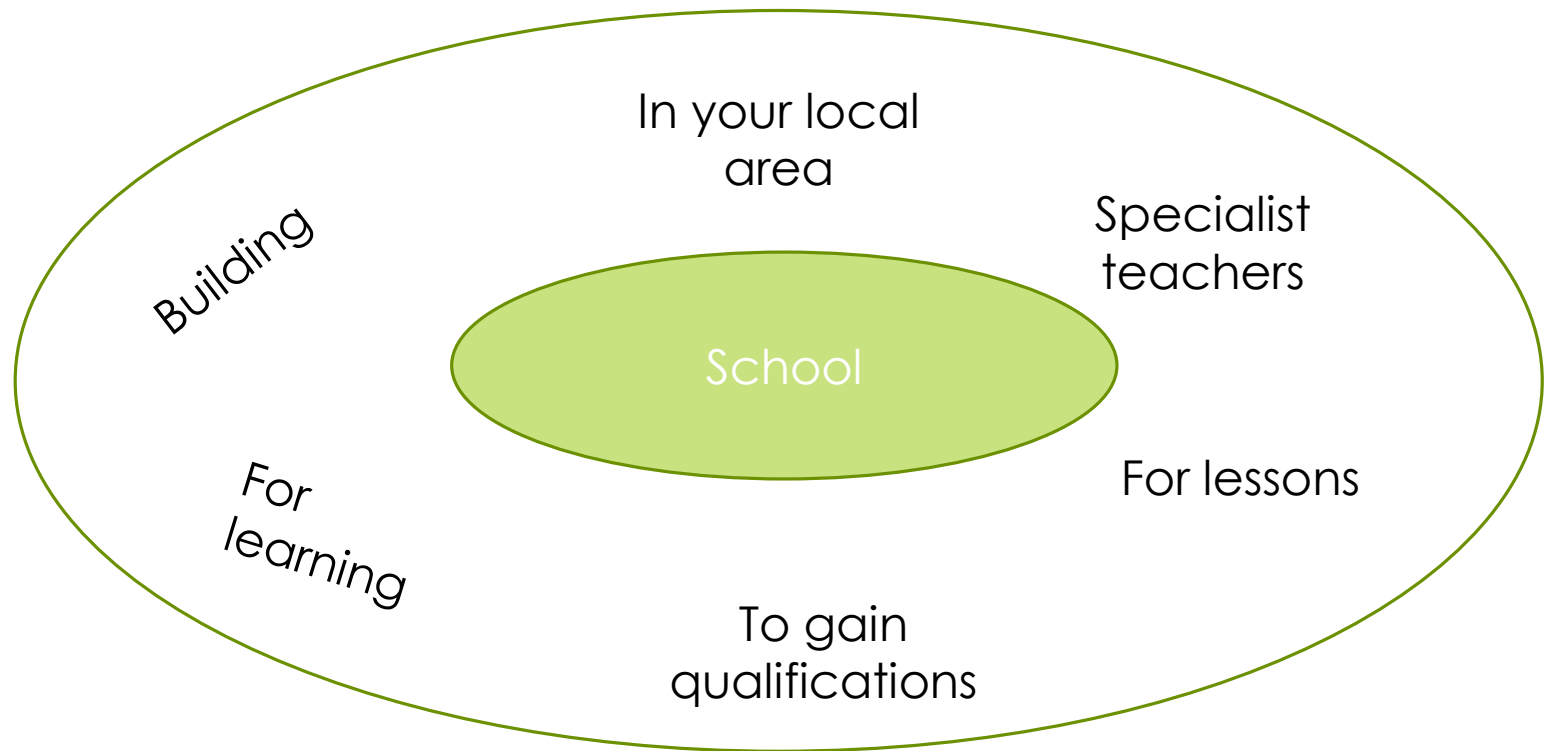
A thinking map is:

- A way to structure ideas before when working with revision materials.
- A way to match the relevant answer structure to the exam question.
- Therefore a way to improve quality of written communication (QWC).
- A recognised format for recording ideas in exams that exam boards will mark.
- A way to plan responses to longer questions.

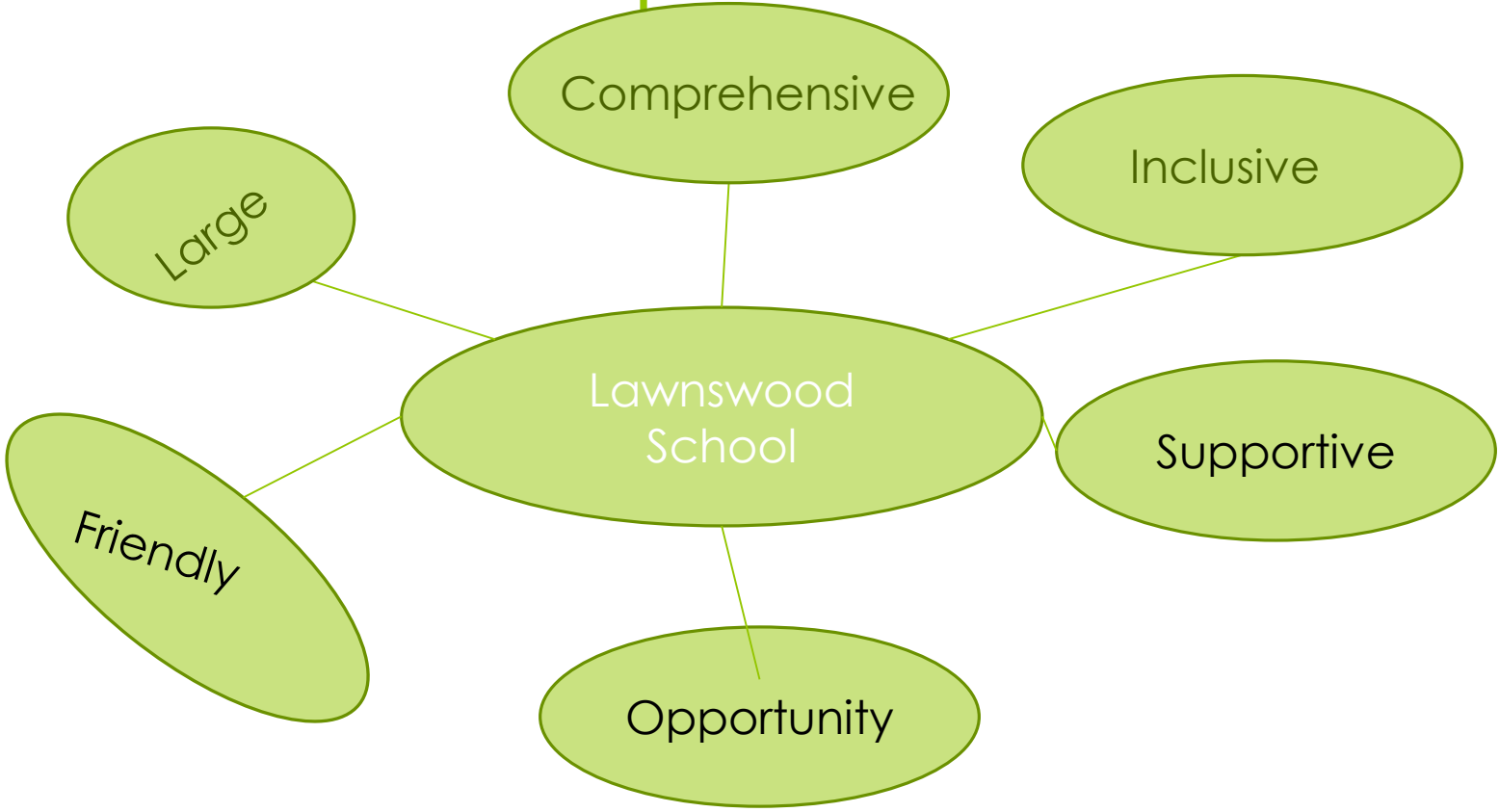
A thinking map is not -

- An aesthetically pleasing way to present information.
- Irrelevant if you make good notes

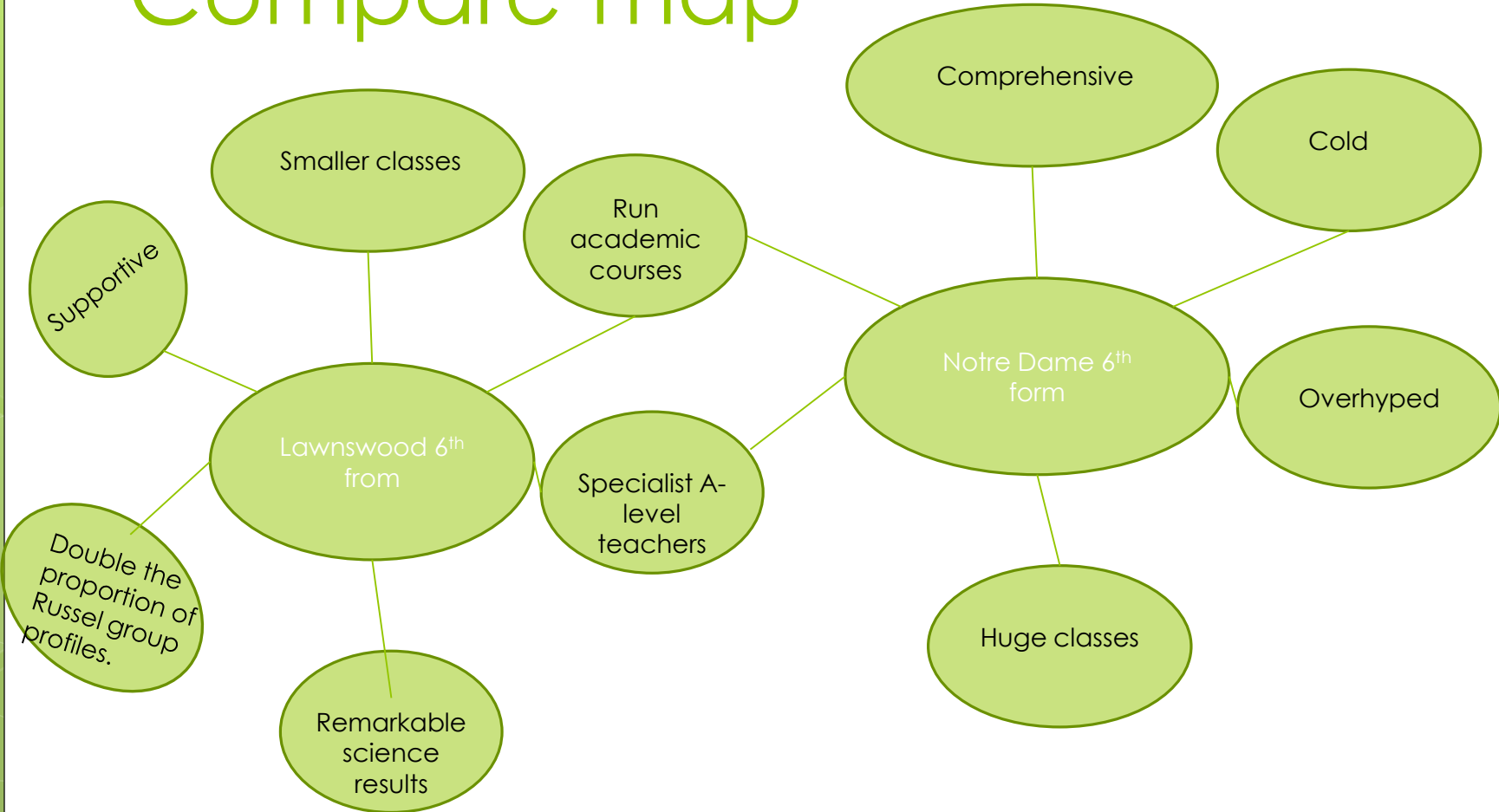
Defining map



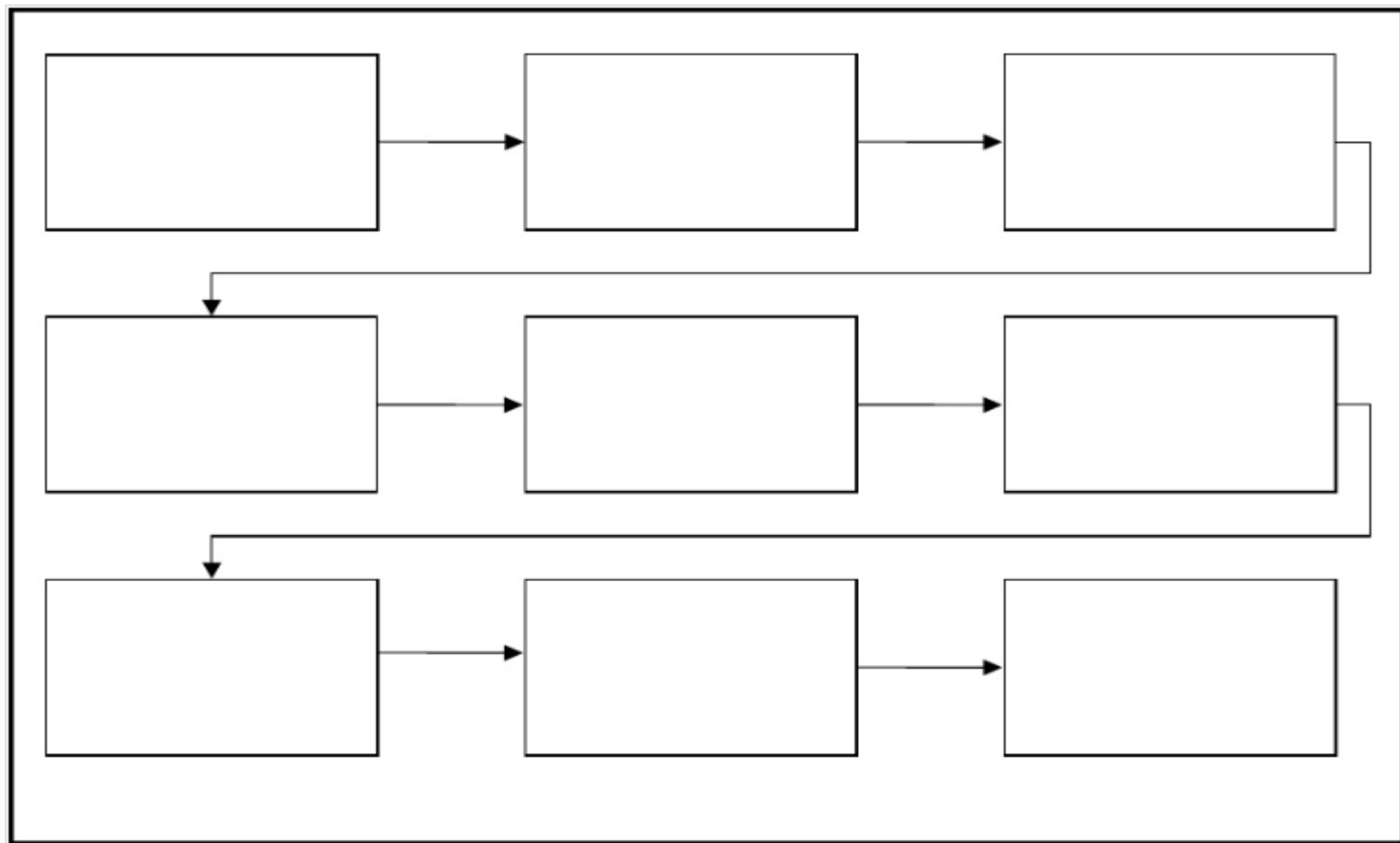
Describe map



Compare map



Sequencing map



How do we use the to revise

1. Using the revision guide identify whether it is important you can define, describe or sequence (often 'explain how') a concept.
2. Use the revision guide to produce the relevant map. If it is a comparison begin with two separate describe maps and then move on to the compare map.
3. Use the maps to structure answers to past paper questions.

Are they worth it?

- Through his research, Dr. Hyerle (2011) found that Thinking Maps help close the achievement gap, as they "can help students [below grade level] self-regulate their own learning and be more successful in the game of school because Thinking Maps serve as a device for mediating thinking, listening, speaking, reading, writing, problem solving, and acquiring new knowledge."
- 'the maps had successfully helped students develop their thinking processes and their ability to organize ideas, improved the quality and quantity of their writing, and also motivated them to learn' Hyerle (1996)

A common question

- **The theory of evolution via natural selection was proposed by Darwin.**

(a) Explain how evolution occurs via natural selection. (4)

Mark scheme

- **organisms within species may show variation**
- **because mutation(s) occur in individuals**
- **this results in the individuals with characteristics most suited to the environment being more likely to survive / to breed**
- **as a consequence the genes that have enabled these individuals to survive are passed on to the next generation**

A change in the spec.

Increased recall expectations within the new spec. means that developing memory and highlighting the importance of long term recall has become a bigger priority.

- Multiple choice test
- Identify misconceptions and memory gaps.
- Activity to complete before end of topic.
- Re-test.