Ideas Factory

How to generate ideas and keep developing them towards a final piece

Mind Mapping – Top Tips

A mind map is a classic creative tool for organising your thoughts.

When responding to a theme, use these top tips when mind mapping…

1. Start with associated words
2. There are NO BAD IDEAS, write it all down just in case
3. If you come to a halt, stop, doodle, daydream, see what comes to mind
4. Branch off and follow wherever it takes you. This shows development if ideas.
5. Think opposite; what's the opposite of that word?
6. Include drawings if it helps
7. Share with others, everybody thinks differently and that's a good thing!
8. Don't get seduced by what your final piece will look like straight away.
9. Highlight the top ideas in some way
10. You can have as many mind maps as you like until an area of the theme sparks your excitement
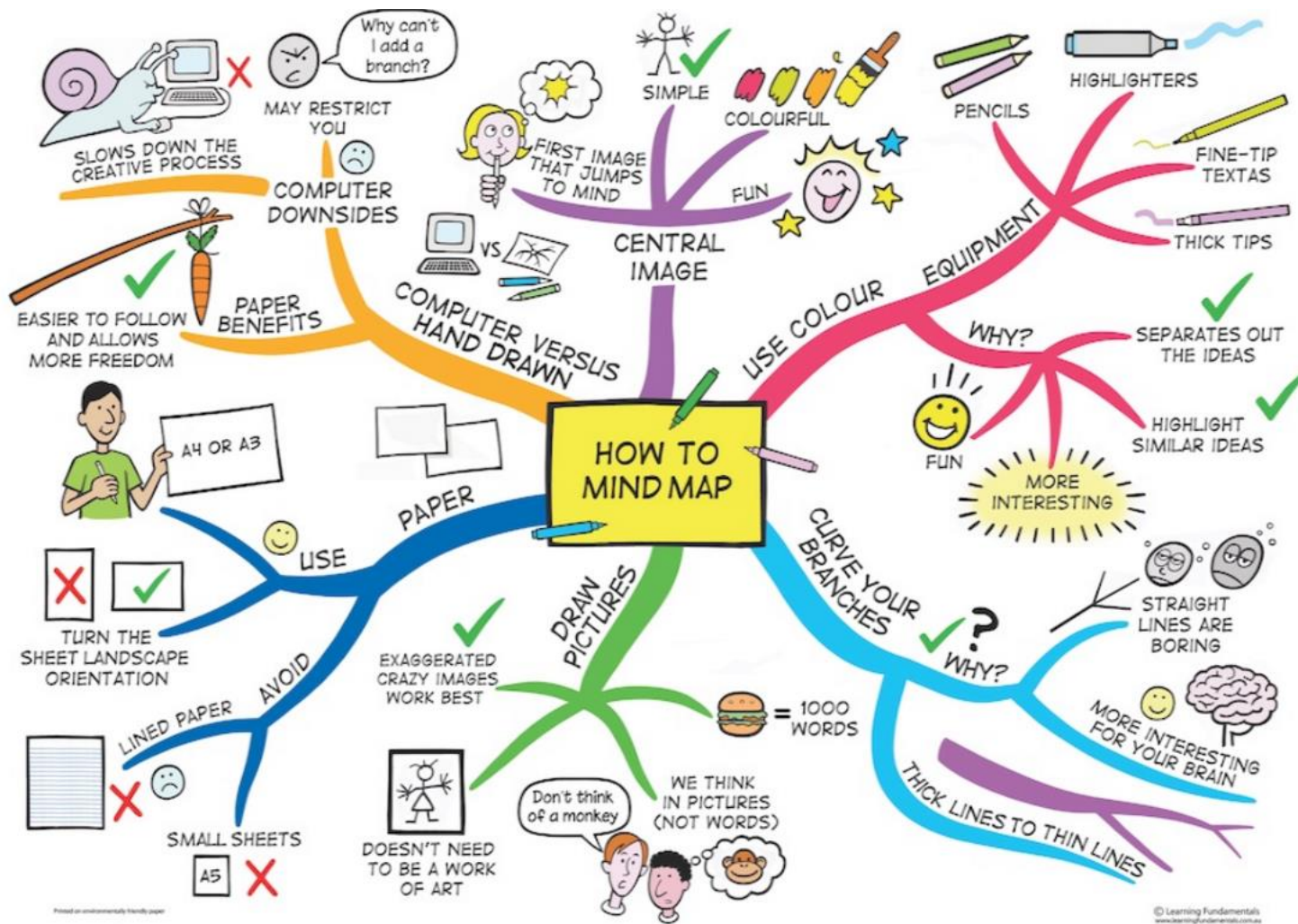
Developing ideas...

Your Art project is like a big cake...

First you plan what you are going to bake – MIND MAP, MOOD BOARD, INTENTIONS

You look around for inspiration – ARTIST STUDIES, WIDR RESEARCH
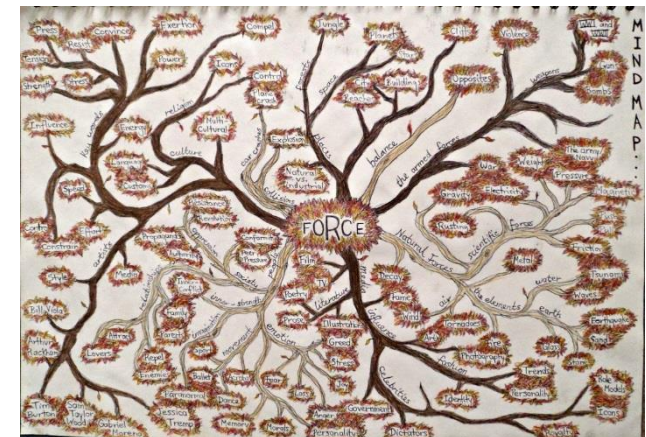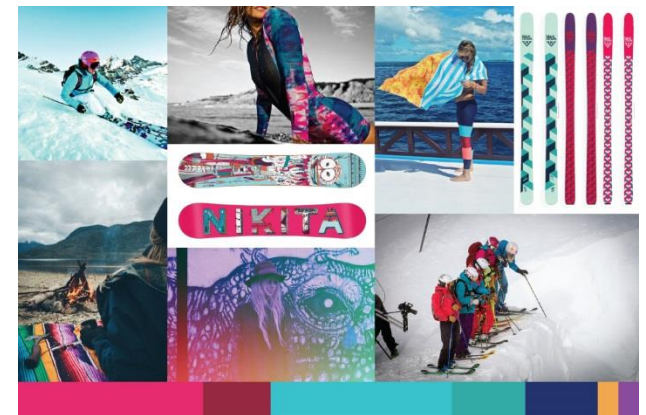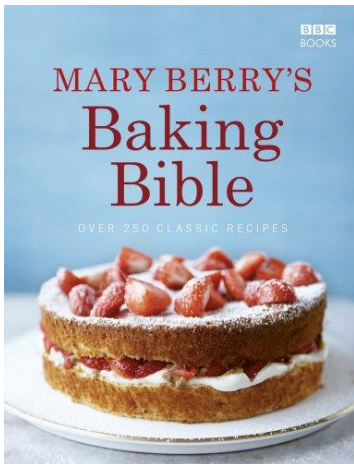
You gather ingredients – TAKE PHOTOS, GATHER PRIMARY/SECONDARY SOURCES, CREATE DRAWINGS

You bake it and see what happens – EXPERIMENT WITH MATERIALS/TECHNIQUES, DEVELOP DIFFERENT COMPOSITIONS, PERFECT A STYLE

Then you enjoy all that hard work! FINAL PIECE AWESOMENESS

First you plan what you are going to bake

MIND MAP, MOOD BOARD, INTENTIONS

You look around for inspiration

ARTIST STUDIES, WIDER RESEARCH

You gather ingredients

TAKE PHOTOS,
GATHER PRIMARY/SECONDARY SOURCES,
CREATE DRAWINGS

You bake it and see what happens

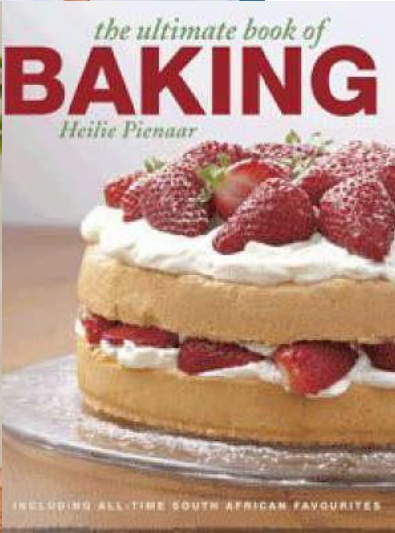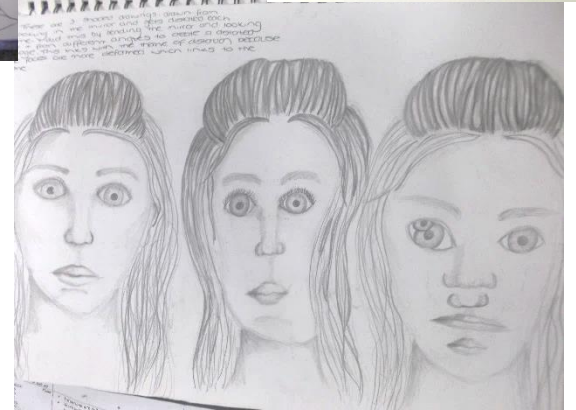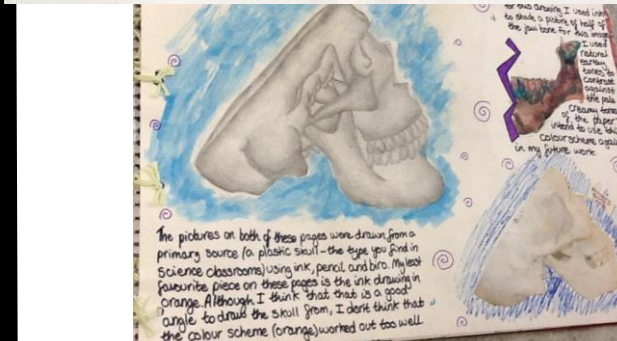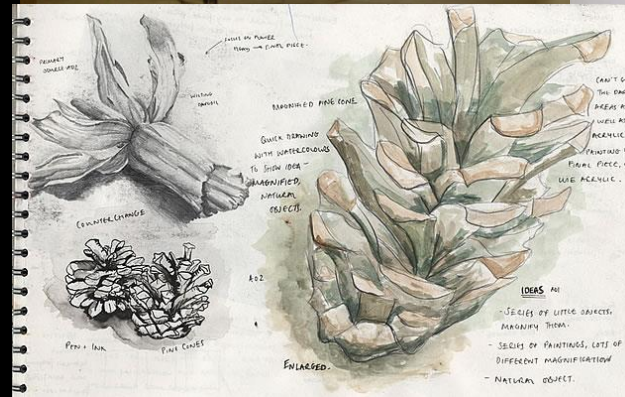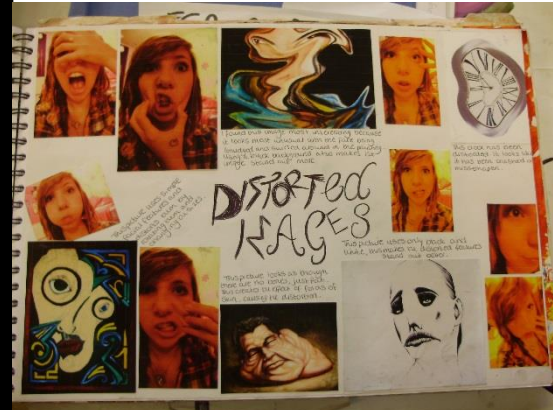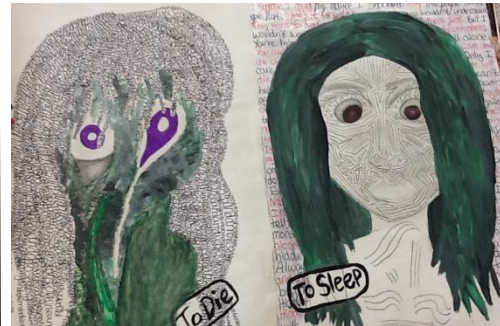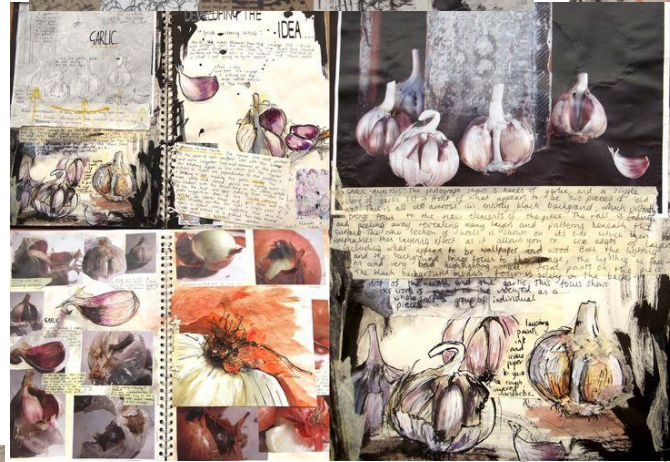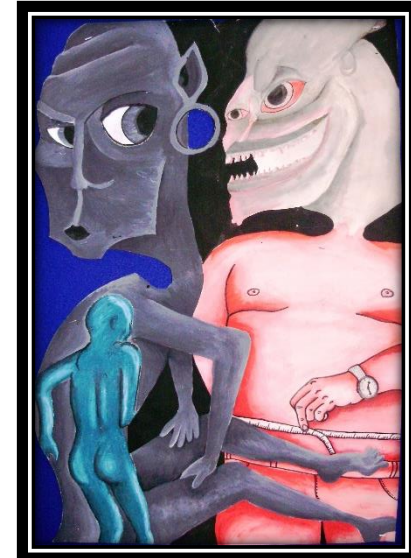# EXPERIMENT WITH MATERIALS/TECHNIQUES, DEVELOP DIFFERENT COMPOSITIONS, PERFECT A STYLE

Then you enjoy all that hard work!

A DELICIOUS FINAL PIECE

So how do I develop my work?

You must show that you have tried out a range
of things before arriving at your final piece idea.

Develop your work by exploring, experimenting, and trying alternatives so that when it comes to your final piece, you know that is the best way to do it because you've tried and tested all the alternatives to rule them out.

Developing can be done with different approaches:

Materials: try out the same thing using different materials

Sources: try using different sources/images each time

Techniques: try out the same materials using different techniques

Processes: try out different orders of putting things together

Compositions: try out different arrangements of your favourite sources

To get the most marks for AO2, you try out...

ALL

TECHNIQUES

ORDERS

MATERIALS

IMAGES

COMPOSITIONS

Make it on a larger (think big)
Make it on a small **scale** (on an envelope/post-it?)
Use the **opposite** colours to the normal thing
Use **crazy** colours like in Fauvism
Use the colours your **artist** did
Use a colour scheme (hot or cold)
Create something black and white with an **accent** colour
Zoom in or crop an interesting section
Destroy your primary sources in some way then record it
Rip up the image and put it back together
Scrunch up and re-flatten the picture to distort it
Weave two pictures together
Break or **slice** an object to show a cross-section
Use energetic **brushstrokes** to make it more expressive
Give yourself a time **limit** so that it looks expressive/abstract
Limit yourself (closed eyes, wrong hand, awkward tools) so that it looks expressive/abstract
Leave an important section out to add to the **mystery**
Censor a section
Destroy **one** part
Zoom in so that you can't recognise it

Disguise it using **patterns**
Add **texture** by painting with a palette knife/glue spreader
Mix flour with your paint and apply using a glue-spreader or palette knife
Build up areas using paper-mache or cardboard
Cut out parts from different pictures and put them back together in a **crazy** way
Rearrange the parts of the picture
Collage other things **into** the picture
Simplify shapes by collaging them in
Show the thing from an unusual **viewpoint**
Combine/merge different things together
Rearrange the **layout**
Try different **compositions** (framing, symmetry, rule of thirds etc)
Create a collaged **surface** to work onto
Find something unusual to create it **on** instead of paper
What would your **artist** do?
Try **ink and biro**
Use **pastels or charcoal**
Explore **printmaking**
Try the magic of **wax resist**