Producing notes with reference to the syllabus

Background

- Students often requesting notes
- Complaints that there is too much information in the textbook
- Difficulty deciding what is important

Method

On completion of the ecology section of the syllabus students were asked to write out their own notes and answer a questionnaire.

They were then given a copy of the relevant syllabus and compared their notes with the syllabus requirements.

Results

- All students stated that they found the exercise useful but time consuming.
- All students noted a difference in what they considered important and the emphasis placed on the topic in the syllabus, with 20% of them claiming “a significant difference”
- All agreed that it would be of benefit to students to be given a copy of the syllabus with 80% saying it would be most advantageous when a topic is finished.

Conclusions

- Students found making out their own notes useful.
- It made it easier to learn
- Great for revising
- Having the syllabus helped them students to focus in on topic
- Most found it too time consuming and not feasible on an ongoing basis

Note: Most students completed this exercise as extra study but it could be set as homework