Trigger Words

Most students end up writing far too many notes – half the time, they're more or less copying out of a textbook or what the teacher is saying word-for-word. Not only does this take ages, but it gives us very little help, and can just overwhelm us. Trigger Words are all about extracting the most important information, and formatting it in a way that it becomes very easy to learn.

Look at the paragraph below from a typical GCSE history revision notes sheet, the most important words in the paragraph have been highlighted making new trigger words notes.

Tip: the number of words in these notes could be reduced by about 80%

Original notes

This is what the ideal highlighted paragraph should look like:

The <mark>Causes of World War One</mark>
There were multiple possible cause of the First World War. The first possible cause of the First World War was the <mark>arms race</mark> that was going on between several countries in Europe from 1910, including <mark>Great Britain, Germany, France, Austro-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire</mark>. The second possible cause of the First World War was the rise in <mark>nationalism</mark> that many of Europe's countries were facing during the first part of the 20th century. The third and final possible cause of the First World War was the <mark>assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand</mark> of Austria in Sarajevo in June 1914.

New notes using trigger words

WW1
Causes:
- Arms Race (GB, Germany, France, A-H, Ottomans)
- Nationalism
- Franz Ferdinand

Trigger words can be easily turned into Mind Maps, or flashcards and made even more easy to remember.
Suddenly, information from a whole terms-worth of work can be condensed into a side of A4. You could use