**Creative problem-solving**

Use this creative problem-solving template to help you analyse and plan for each stage in the problem-solving process, as outlined in *The Study Skills Handbook*, pp. 94-96.

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| 1. **Define the problem** | |
| ***Put it into your own words***  What exactly are you being asked to do? |  |
| ***Sketch it***   * How do the different parts of the problem relate to each other? * What information can you write in? * What else can you work out or add in that would help? * What do you need to find out? |  |
| ***Similarity to other problems?***  Which kinds of problems have you solved before that were similar in some way to this? |  |
| ***Other information?***  Which of your notes, texts, learning resources, websites, etc. would be of most use? |  |
| 1. **Identify a strategy:** weigh up alternative problem-solving strategies | |
| ***Strategy Option A***(advantages) | ***Strategy Option A***(disadvantages) |
| ***Strategy Option B***(advantages) | ***Strategy Option B***(disadvantages) |
| ***Strategy Option C***(advantages) | ***Strategy Option C***(disadvantages) |
| **Decision: Which strategy to take** (Consider combining aspects from all options.) | |
| **Working through, checking and writing up***(Check off ✓ each stage once completed.)*   1. I have worked through the problem systematically. 2. I have checked my solution, step by step, for errors and omissions. 3. I have written out the problem succinctly and accurately, demonstrating clearly how I arrived at the solution. | |
| 1. Evaluate your work (See *The Study Skills Handbook*, p. 96, for guidance.) |  |