

Note-Taking Apps Comparison Chart

A companion download to the Cogniks blog post: "Best Note-Taking Apps for CBSE Students: Notion, OneNote, and Handwritten Notes Compared" - cogniks.com

Feature	Notion	OneNote	Handwritten Notes
Cost	Free for personal use; paid plans for teams	Free with a Microsoft account; more storage via Microsoft 365	Free (just paper and pen)
Handwriting / stylus support	None	Excellent, especially with a stylus	Native - it IS handwriting
Typed, structured notes	Excellent - databases, templates, linking	Good, but less structured than Notion	Not applicable
Diagrams & equations	Limited	Strong - free-form canvas	Strong - draw anything instantly
Offline access	Limited on some plans	Full offline access, syncs later	Always available
Searchability	Excellent (typed text)	Good (typed text; handwriting search varies by device)	None, unless you scan/OCR later
Best for	Study planners, subject databases, CUET + board tracking	Science subjects, diagram-heavy notes, class-style notebooks	First-pass class notes, active recall, concept learning
Learning curve	Moderate to steep at first	Low - feels like a digital notebook	None
Revision reusability	High once organised	High, especially with tagged sections	Needs to be revisited/rewritten to stay useful

Quick Read

No single option wins outright. Notion organises; OneNote captures (especially diagrams and handwriting); plain handwritten notes force the deepest first-pass understanding. Most students end up using a combination rather than picking just one.

App features and pricing change frequently - verify current details on each app's official website before choosing. © Cogniks - cogniks.com