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**Master Thesis Defense**

Entitled

*THE EFFECT OF USING OF MIND MAPS IN IMPROVING ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AND DEVELOPING THINKING SKILLS AMONG THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS IN THE HYBRID LEARNING ENVIRONMENT IN ONE OF AL AIN SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES*

by

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Date & Venue

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Link: <https://eu.bbcollab.com/guest/042ded0742424baa8305d166ffe95a5>

Abstract

This study aimed to know the effect of the mind mapping strategy on raising the level of academic achievement and developing thinking skills among third-grade students in social studies in a hybrid learning environment. To achieve the objectives of the research, the quasi-experimental approach was followed by using two tools: the achievement test and a questionnaire to measure students' attitudes towards the effect of mental maps in developing thinking skills. They were divided into two groups: a control group, who were taught in the usual way in school, and an experimental group, who were taught using mind maps, and the study was applied during the academic year 2020-2021. The results of the study were analyzed using quantitative data analysis software (SPSS).

The results of the study showed that the mind mapping strategy had no effect on the level of academic achievement of the control and experimental groups for third-grade students in the general results according to the T-test, despite the presence of small differences in the average between the scores of the control and experimental group in favor of the experimental group. The study also showed the existence of varying statistical indications for the mind mapping strategy at the three cognitive levels: the presence of statistically significant differences in the level of remembering in favor of the experimental group, and the absence of statistically significant differences between the averages of the two groups at the levels of understanding and application.

Finally, the study indicated that the mind mapping strategy had a significant impact on the development of thinking skills for third grade students, as their responses in the questionnaire reflected that the greatest impact of it was in the skill of remembering, followed by the skills of understanding and application, and then the skill of analysis.

**Keywords:** Mind maps, thinking development, academic achievement, social studies-the educational curriculum, unit of study, first cycle, meaningful learning, smart learning program.