ToolGPA

NOVEMBER 2026

Ponder

The Insider's Guide

AI research workspace built around a mind-map canvas



Every plan, grade, refund rule and rival among whiteboard and mind map tools, read from Ponder's own pages.

Made by Ponder AI Limited · checked Nov 13, 2026 · toolgpa.com

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GPA



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Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

ToolGPA put this guide together from Ponder's own pages, its app-store listings and our grades. Every fact in it is on Ponder's page too, where it is kept up to date. Checked Nov 13, 2026.

Welcome

What it is, who it suits, its grades and the ten things to know first

2.2

GPA, above 23 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade

Ponder is an AI workspace for academic research and literature reviews. Searches, saved papers, notes and drafts sit on a visual, mind-map-style canvas, with citations kept attached to their sources. Usage is metered in credits, with a daily refill on every plan.

To get you started, here are **9 things to know about Ponder**, taken from its own pages and our grades.

> "
>
> **You need to learn how credits and the canvas work.**
>
> From our grade for ease of use

1 **Best for AI research on a visual canvas**

Ponder is an AI research canvas that searches papers, keeps citations and exports maps and slides.

2 **Paid plans start at $14 a month**

As its pricing page puts it: $14 per month, billed yearly ($16 billed monthly).

3 **There is a free plan**

40 credits refreshed daily, limited access to advanced models and limited file uploads.

4 **It runs on Web**

Web.

5 **Visual research canvas**

Questions, search results, saved papers and notes are laid out as a map you can branch, rather than a linear chat.

6 **Literature search and review**

Search returns papers with key takeaways, year and citation counts, and the workspace supports systematic reviews, paper summaries and research-gap finding.

7 **Citations and styles**

References can be switched between APA 7, MLA 9, Chicago 18, IEEE, NLM, GB/T 7714 and Harvard, and a final check looks for retracted sources.

8 **A 2.2 GPA, above 23 of 98**

That is against the other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, on value, the free plan, features, ease of use and platforms.

9 **Keep it**

To replace Ponder you would be making a library of papers and sources to search. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

Ponder at a glance

PRICING Free plan, from $14 per month, billed yearly ($16 billed monthly)	FREE PLAN Yes
FREE TRIAL None stated	RUNS ON Web
MADE BY Ponder AI Limited	CATEGORY Whiteboards & Mind Maps
OUR GRADE 2.2 GPA, fair	

The report card

Best for AI research on a visual canvas

Ponder is an AI research canvas that searches papers, keeps citations and exports maps and slides. Use is metered in credits, the free plan refills only 40 a day, and it is a research tool rather than a whiteboard.

TOOLGPA REPORT CARD

Ponder

Graded Nov 13, 2026

SUBJECT	GRADE	COMMENT
Value for money	C	Casual is $14 a month billed yearly, $16 monthly, just above the $13 where the dearer quarter starts. Plus is $24 and Pro $42.
Free plan and trial	C	Free gives 40 credits a day, limited advanced models and limited uploads, which you will run through on real research. No trial is listed.
Features	C	Literature search, citations, source import and export on a canvas. The listing says there is no freehand drawing or sticky-note board.
Ease of use	C	No store rating on record. You need to learn how credits and the canvas work.
Platforms and integrations	B	Web only, with Zotero and Obsidian. No desktop or phone app.

Grade point average — Fair, out of 4.0 **2.2**

An A is worth 4 points, a B 3, a C 2, a D 1 and an F nothing. The GPA is the average of the five.

Who Ponder is for

- ✓ Fits if you review papers and want citations kept with your notes
- ✓ Works for people who already keep sources in Zotero or Obsidian

Who it is not for

- ✗ Skip it if you want freehand drawing or sticky notes
- ✗ Tight if you stay free: 40 credits a day and 0 monthly credits
- ✗ Pricey if you read a lot, since credits are metered and Casual gives 1,100 a month
- ✗ Not for you if you want an app: only a browser version is listed

Good to know

Good for

- ✓ Graduate students and academics running literature reviews
- ✓ Researchers who want sources, analysis and drafting in one place
- ✓ People who think in maps more than in chat threads

Worth knowing

- ⓘ It is a research tool, not a general whiteboard: there is no freehand drawing or sticky-note workshop board.
- ⓘ Use is metered in credits; the Free plan gives 0 monthly credits and relies on a daily refill of 40.
- ⓘ It runs in a browser; the pricing and homepage list no desktop or mobile apps.

PART 02 · PRICING

What it costs

Every plan, the free plan, ways to pay less and how prices have moved

$14

A month to start. There is a free plan too

Ponder has a free plan. Paid plans start at $14 per month, billed yearly ($16 billed monthly).

FREE

$0

40 credits refreshed daily, limited advanced models and limited file uploads.

CASUAL

$14

per month, billed yearly ($16 billed monthly)

1,100 credits a month, 50 refreshed daily, all advanced models and unlimited file uploads.

PLUS

$24

per month, billed yearly ($30 billed monthly)

2,500 credits a month, 25% off credit top-ups and priority AI access at peak times.

PRO

$42

per month, billed yearly ($60 billed monthly)

6,000 credits a month, 40% off top-ups, top-priority AI access and early access to features.

The free plan

40 credits refreshed daily, limited access to advanced models and limited file uploads.

Read from ponder.ing on Nov 13, 2026.

Ways to pay less

ANNUAL DISCOUNT

Save up to 30% with yearly billing

The pricing page shows yearly totals below the monthly price, saving 13% on Casual, 20% on Plus and 30% on Pro.

Stated on ponder.ing

What it does

Its main features, where it runs, what it works with and who makes it

1

Place it runs: Web

AI research workspace built around a mind-map canvas. Here is what it does, as its own site describes it, and what it covers: AI features, research, citations, mind mapping.

> "
>
> **Literature search, citations, source import and export on a canvas.**

From our grade for features

Visual research canvas

Questions, search results, saved papers and notes are laid out as a map you can branch, rather than a linear chat.

Literature search and review

Search returns papers with key takeaways, year and citation counts, and the workspace supports systematic reviews, paper summaries and research-gap finding.

Citations and styles

References can be switched between APA 7, MLA 9, Chicago 18, IEEE, NLM, GB/T 7714 and Harvard, and a final check looks for retracted sources.

Source import

Bring in PDFs, Word and PowerPoint files, audio, video, web links and a whole Zotero library.

Export

Create and export mind maps, documents and slides from a session.

Where it runs

Web

What it works with

Zotero

Obsidian

Ponder is made by Ponder AI Limited.

PART 04 · STANDING

Where it stands

Its grades against its category, and whether to keep it or make your own

23/98

Other whiteboard and mind map tools it is graded above

Ponder's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 23 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, and level with 19.

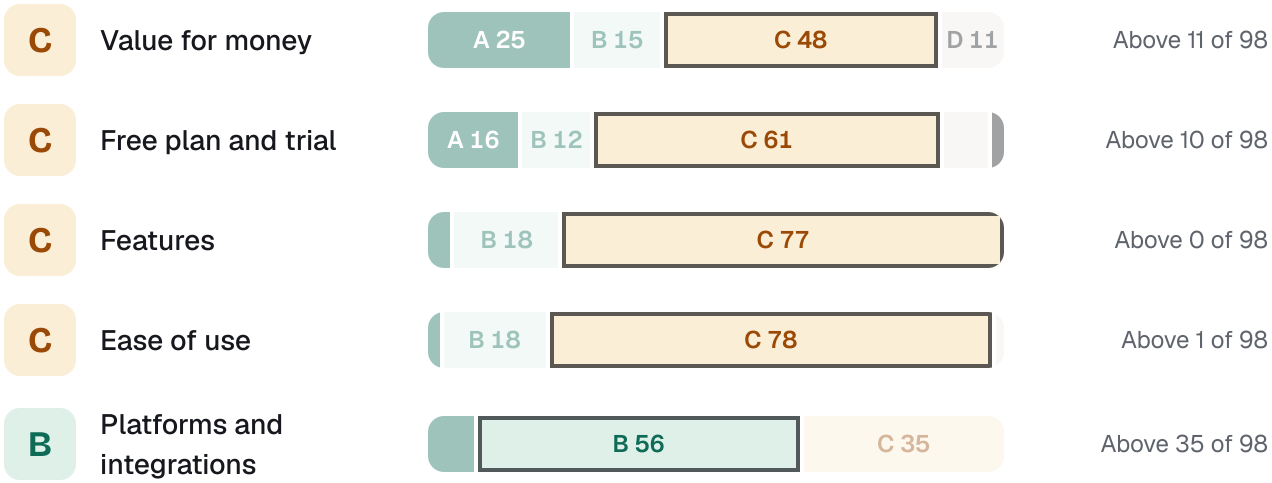
It stands best on platforms and integrations (B, above 35 of 98) and worst on features (C, above 0).

Its paid plans start at $14 a month, against a middle price of $8 for the category: 56 of the 69 others that charge start lower.

On features, ease of use and platforms it scores 2.3 out of 4. 26 tools score higher and cost less.

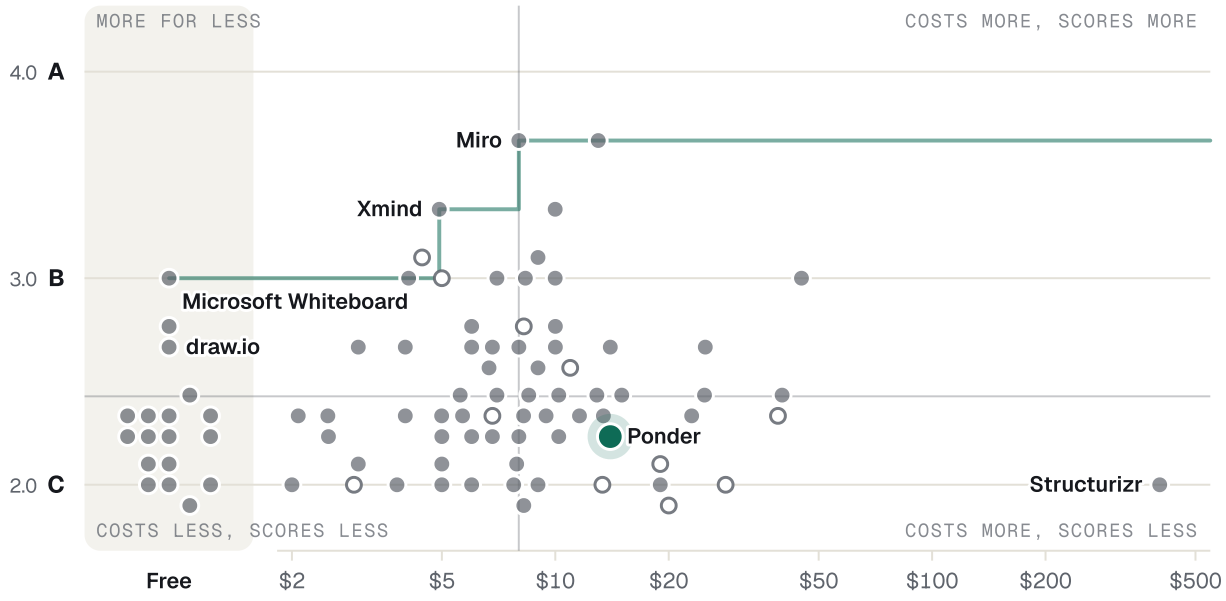
Each grade against the category

Every bar is all 99 whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, cut by the letter each got. Ponder's own letter is outlined.



Price against what you get

Each dot is one of 88 whiteboard and mind map tools. Further left costs less; higher up scores better on features, ease of use and platforms. Ponder is the marked dot.



What paid plans start at, a month (each step along is roughly double)

Keep it, or make your own?

Whether this is something you could build for yourself with an AI app builder, and what you would give up.

Keep it

To replace Ponder you would be making a library of papers and sources to search. That is not a weekend's work, with an AI app builder or without one.

That makes this kind of software worth paying for, not this one in particular: 56 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools grade higher. It costs $168 a year.

What you could make

- Mind mapping: an app builder makes this well.

What you could not

- A library of papers and sources to search.

- Citation records for millions of papers.
- AI features, unless you pay a model provider for each request yourself.

What this rests on. Ponder's listing: what it does, where it runs, what it plugs into and what it costs. It is a judgement about the kind of software this is. We have not built a replacement for it, and making your own means looking after it too. How we decide, and every tool's verdict.

The alternatives

The tools it is most often weighed against, side by side



InfraNodus, MindMup, Coggle, Xmind and Kumu

The 5 tools Ponder is most often weighed against, with where each one differs from it.

InfraNodus

2.0 GPA

Free plan · from €12/mo

Turns text into a network graph to show topics and gaps.

- Only InfraNodus lists a browser extension.
- Ponder also covers citations.

Ponder and InfraNodus compared in full

MindMup

2.2 GPA

Free plan · from $6/mo

Web mind mapping with a free tier and simple paid plans.

- Ponder also covers research and citations.
- MindMup also covers notes, diagrams and presentations.

Ponder and MindMup compared in full



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Coggle

Free plan · from $5/mo

Collaborative mind maps and flowcharts in the browser.

- Coggle is self-hostable, according to its own site.
- Ponder also covers research and citations.
- Coggle also covers Markdown and diagrams.

Ponder and Coggle compared in full



3.0
GPA

Xmind

Free plan · from $4.92/mo

Mind mapping app with AI, Gantt charts and a presentation mode.

- Only Xmind lists macOS, Windows, Linux, iOS and Android apps.
- Ponder also covers research and citations.
- Xmind also covers templates, Gantt & timelines and presentations.

Ponder and Xmind compared in full



2.0
GPA

Kumu

Free plan · from $9/mo

Relationship maps for systems, stakeholders and networks.

- Ponder also covers research and citations.
- Kumu also covers diagrams.

Ponder and Kumu compared in full

PART 06 · QUESTIONS

Quick answers

The questions people ask about it, each answered in a line or two

13

Questions, each answered in a line or two

The short version of everything above, for when you only need the answer. Each one is told in full in its part of the guide.

Is Ponder free?

Ponder has a free plan. 40 credits refreshed daily, limited access to advanced models and limited file uploads.

How much does Ponder cost?

Ponder lists 4 plans. Free: $0.

What platforms does Ponder work on?

Ponder is available on Web.

Does Ponder offer any discounts?

Ponder publicly lists the following: Save up to 30% with yearly billing.

Does Ponder have an Android app?

No Android app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Ponder is listed for Web.

Does Ponder have an iPhone app?

No iPhone app was listed when its pages were read on Nov 13, 2026. Ponder is listed for Web.

Is Ponder open source?

Ponder is not described as open source on its own site, as read on Nov 13, 2026.

What does Ponder integrate with?

Ponder's listing names Zotero and Obsidian. A listing names up to eight integrations, so it may connect to more.

Who makes Ponder?

Ponder is made by Ponder AI Limited.

What are the alternatives to Ponder?

The closest alternatives to Ponder in our directory are InfraNodus, MindMup, Coggle, Xmind and Kumu.

How does Ponder compare with other whiteboard and mind map tools?

Ponder's GPA of 2.2 is higher than 23 of the 98 other whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, and level with 19.

Is Ponder good value for money?

ToolGPA grades Ponder C for value for money. Its paid plans start at $14 a month, against a middle price of $8 for the category: 56 of the 69 others that charge start lower.

Could I make my own version of Ponder?

To replace Ponder you would be making a library of papers and sources to search.

Where this guide comes from

The prices, plans, platforms and features were read from Ponder's own pages on Nov 13, 2026, and the grades were given on Nov 13, 2026. Graded from this listing, whose facts were read from Ponder's own pages on 13 November 2026. Not based on using the product, and shorter than our full reviews.

Every tool we list gets five grades, A to F, each with its reason, and a GPA that averages them. How each is decided is at toolgpa.com/grades. This guide is ToolGPA's own work; it is not made, paid for or approved by Ponder AI Limited. Prices change, so check ponder.ing before you buy.

ponder.ing/

ponder.ing/pricing

About ToolGPA

Who made this guide, what else is on the site, and how to cite it

7,721
Tools graded, in 95 categories

ToolGPA grades software the way a school report grades a pupil: five subjects, a letter for each with the reason written beside it, and a GPA that averages them. Prices, plans and platforms are read from each maker's own pages and dated, so you always know how fresh a figure is.

Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Every tool on the site has a guide like this one, free to download and pass on. It all lives at toolgpa.com.

7,721	95	739	579
tools graded	categories	price changes on record	apps priced in 12 countries

What else is on toolgpa.com

Ponder, kept up to date

Everything in this guide, with prices and grades as they are today

toolgpa.com/tools/ponder

How grades are given

The rules behind every letter and every GPA

toolgpa.com/grades

Value charts

What each tool costs against what it scores, for every category

toolgpa.com/charts

Compare

Any two tools side by side, plan by plan

toolgpa.com/compare

Price changes

Every price rise and cut on record, each with its source

toolgpa.com/price-changes

Prices by country

What apps cost on the App Store in 12 countries

toolgpa.com/prices-by-country

Pay less

Every public discount: yearly billing, students, nonprofits

toolgpa.com/save

Keep or make

Which tools are worth paying for, and which you could build yourself

toolgpa.com/keep-or-make

Scan for the live page

Prices and grades as they are today

Quoting this guide?

Please name ToolGPA and link to the live page, so readers can check the figures for themselves:

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ToolGPA, "Ponder: The Insider's Guide",
checked Nov 13, 2026.
https://toolgpa.com/tools/ponder
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Know someone choosing between whiteboard and mind map tools?

Send them this guide: toolgpa.com/tools/ponder/guide

ToolGPA elsewhere: youtube.com/@toolgpa

See our other guides

The best-graded whiteboard and mind map tools after Ponder, each with an Insider's Guide of its own.

Whiteboards & Mind Maps Insider's Guide

Every one of the 99 whiteboard and mind map tools we grade, compared

Microsoft Whiteboard Insider's Guide

Free collaborative canvas built into Microsoft 365 and Teams

3.4 GPA

draw.io Insider's Guide

Free diagram editor that saves files to storage you choose

3.2 GPA

tldraw Insider's Guide

Free online whiteboard with a local desktop app

3.2 GPA

ToolGPA

Choosing software? Every tool graded, every price dated.

Compare tools at toolgpa.com ›

Everything in this guide is ToolGPA's own summary of what Ponder's pages, its app-store listings and public reviews said on the dates shown. Grades are our judgement under the rules at toolgpa.com/grades. Every grade, review and ranking on ToolGPA is our own judgement. No company can pay for a grade or change one. Ponder is a trademark of its owner, and this guide is not made, paid for or approved by Ponder AI Limited. Prices and plans change: check ponder.ing before you buy.