

Y11 Preparation for A Level Geography

Hereford Sixth Form College

Recommended Reading Materials:

A Level Geography Textbook suggestions:

Pre-course Wider Reading Suggestions for Geography A Level:

Basic Map Skills

The following is adapted from the BBC Bitesize GCSE revision website. If you have taken a Geography GCSE you should already have the necessary basic maps skills. However, if you did not take geography at GCSE and your map skills have not been utilized since Year 9 or earlier you should have a look at the following.

To read a map you need to understand compass directions, grid references and the map's key and scale. You need to be able to find features when given a map reference. You also need to be able to describe a feature's location on a map by giving a map reference.

Introduction

Maps are representations of the world created by people called **cartographers** to help other people navigate the world. Maps contain information tailored to a specific purpose.

A **road map**, for example, contains information that helps the reader get from one place to another using a vehicle.

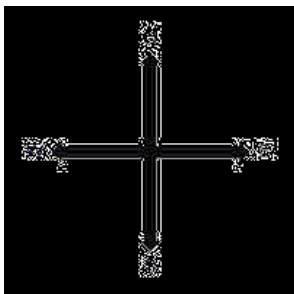
The maps found in a **geographical atlas** will contain information of less interest to a road user, such as how the land in a place is used, the population density and the political boundaries that exist between regions, states and nations.

There are five fundamental things you need to be familiar with to read a map successfully:

- compass directions
- grid references
- map's key
- title
- scale

Compass directions

Compass directions are vital for finding your way around a map. There are many ways to remember where each direction goes. You probably learnt a rhyme or a phrase to help you remember - if not, here's one now. Starting at the top and moving clockwise the directions on a compass or map are:



Points of a compass

1. North - Naughty
2. East - Elephants
3. South - Squirt
4. West - Water

Grid references

OS maps are divided into **numbered squares**. These squares can be used to give a place a four or six-figure grid reference. It is important that you know both **four-figure** and **six-figure** grid references.

Eastings

Eastings are lines that run up and down the map. They increase in number the further you move east (or right). You can use them to measure how far to travel east.

Northings

Northings are lines that run across the map horizontally. They increase in number the further you move north (or up the map). You can use them to measure how far to travel north.

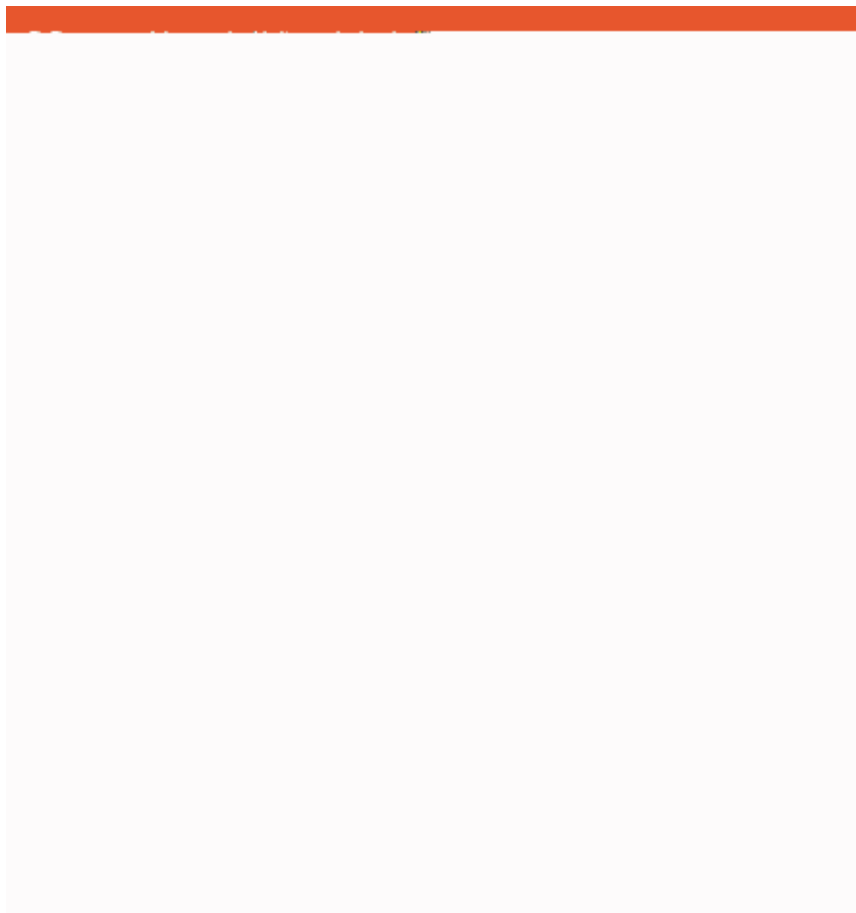
Remember:

numbers along the bottom of the map come first and the numbers up the side of the map come second

the four-figure reference **2083** refers to the square to the **east** of Easting line 20 and **north** of Northing line 83

the six-figure reference **207834** will give you the exact point in the square **2083** - 7/10s of the way across and 4/10s of the way up

The six-figure reference on the map below shows a **church** in **Bamford**.



The scale below is for a 1:50,000 scale map. At this scale, 1 cm on the map represents 50,000 cm on the ground (= 500 m or 0.5 km).

Ordnance Survey maps, the most common type of map in the UK, come in several scales.

Travel maps have a scale of 1:125,000. This means 1 cm on the map represents 125,000 in the real world or 1 cm = 1.25 km. These are used by drivers going long distances.

Landranger maps are 1:50,000 (1 cm = 500 m). These are useful for drivers going shorter distances.

Explorer maps are 1:25,000 (1 cm = 250 m). These are useful for walking and other outdoor pursuits.

Landplan maps are 1:10,000 (1 cm = 100 m). These show individual streets clearly and might be used by town planners.

Geography Enrolment Task: Geography of Hereford Sixth Form College Campus

To complete this task you will need to register with digimap which is a subscription mapping site available to our students,

TASK:

Write your essay in full sentences and paragraphs. Type your work ideally in a word document and complete it by 11th September 2023.

Sources of information:

Physical Geography of the college campus

