

# Y11 Preparation for A Level Geography

## Hereford Sixth Form College

Recommended Reading Materials:

A Level Geography Textbook suggestions:

Websites:

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Optional tasks to complete:

Task 1: Read through the specification for the

# 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 most people.



## Key

Just like a key to a door, **the key on a map helps you to unlock the information stored in the colours and symbols** on a map. You must understand how the key relates to the map before you can unlock the information it contains. The key will help you to identify types of boundaries, roads, buildings, agriculture, industry, places of interest and geographical features.

## Title

Make sure you **read the title** of a map before you start to use it. This will give you a general idea about the information

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.

## Ordnance Survey maps

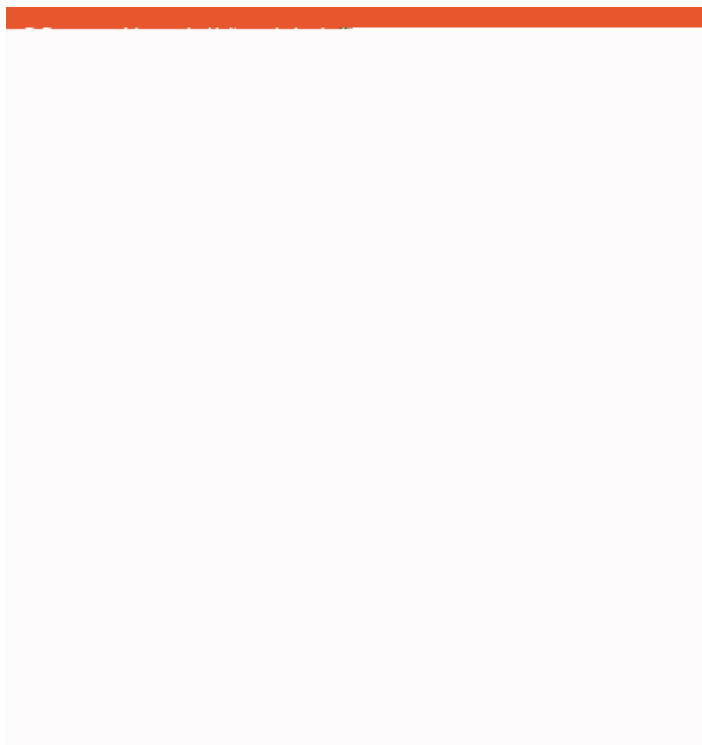
You will be asked to interpret maps to find out specific information. Being able to distinguish between different types of land use on an Ordnance Survey (OS) map will help you interpret maps during your exams. Here are some things you should brush up on:

Make sure you can tell the difference between urban and rural land use. Start by looking at the key. Are the features in the key related to the countryside or to towns?

Look out for features of the urban landscape that are represented in symbols on the OS map. Start by looking at modes of transport (eg junctions of main roads, railways, ports and airports).

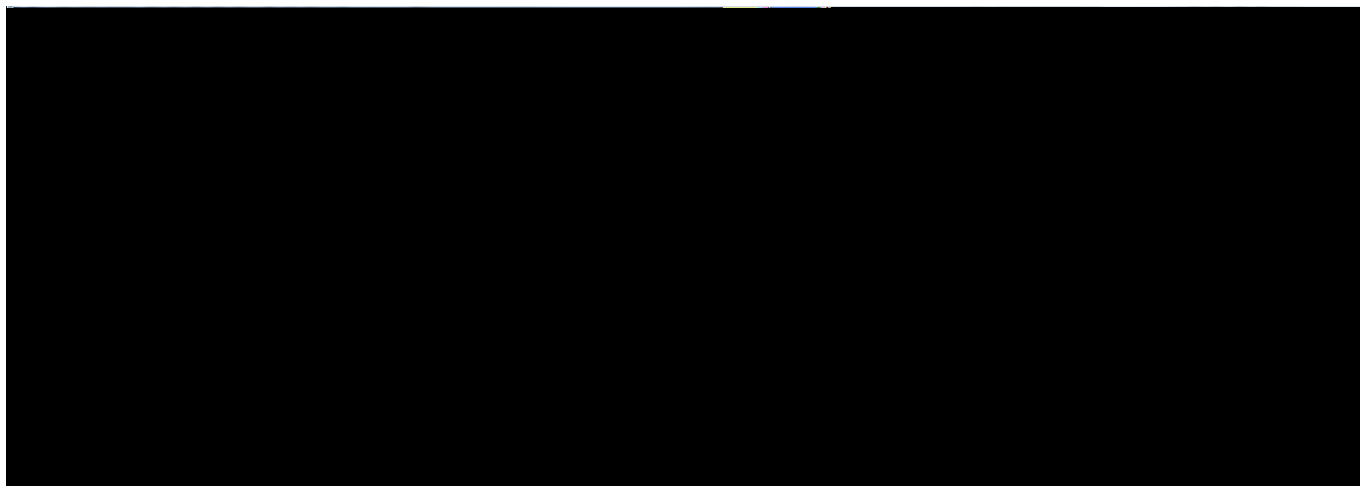
Look for rural features. Study the key carefully to see what different areas of shading on the map represent. For example, different types of farmland will be shaded differently.

Study the relief of the land on your OS map by looking for the contour lines. Contours will show you where the hills (elevations) and valleys (depressions) are on the map. Contours will often show changes in height of 5 or 10 metres. The closer the contours are together the steeper the slope is. If the contours are far apart, you might be looking at a flat flood plain. On the map below the contours in square **1981** are quite close together - indicating a fairly steep gradient.





From inside college:



From outside college:

