

## Mapwork Skills

Maps come up every year. There will be an OS map on your exam somewhere, possibly on both papers, depending what the theme for Paper 1 is. If there isn't a map on Paper 1 there will be one on Paper 2 - and the types of questions are likely to be similar.

The mapwork marks are easy marks! If you can do a few simple things right then you can add lots of marks to your total.

### 1. OS Maps

You will almost certainly get an OS map extract at 1:50,000 scale to use.

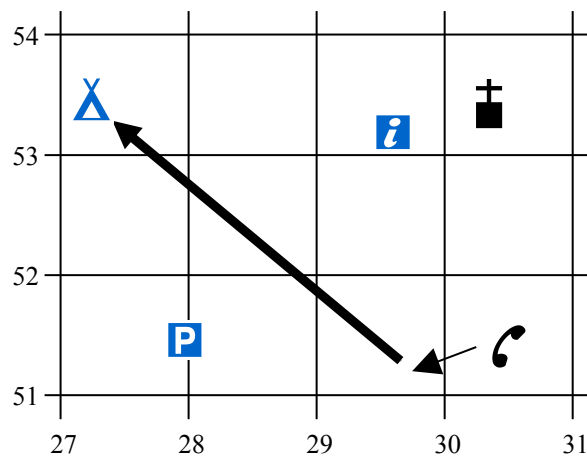
#### a) Direction:

The top of the map is always north - go with "grid north" always.

Take care that you read the question - the camp site is north west of the telephone box. Use an arrow like on the map extract.

The key-word is usually "from". Get that sorted and you won't get your answer round the wrong way.

Keep it simple - we don't want to know about north-north-east - a simple 8 points will do (nothing more complex than north-east or south-west)



#### b) Distance:

Use the scale line if you need to, but on a 1:50,000 map 1 km is 2cm, which means 100m are 2mm.

**The easy way - measure the distance in cm and mm and halve it**

e.g. 12.6cm = 6.3 km; 17.1cm = 8.55km (or 8 km 550m)

It really helps to have a 30cm ruler handy. You can in an emergency measure using a the edge of a piece of paper which you then put up against the scale but it's not ideal.

Be precise, but be careful to read the question:

- if it wants the exact distance don't say "about 6km";
- if the question says "to the nearest kilometre" then it means you need to round up or down. If you put 6.3km and the answer is 6 you lose the mark.
- make sure you put in units - and don't even try to measure in miles!

#### c) Height:

There are 3 ways of measuring height on a map:

- contour lines - the closer they are together the steeper the land is;
- spot heights - the dots with the height next to them;
- triangulation pillars (or trig points) - the blue triangles with the height next to them.

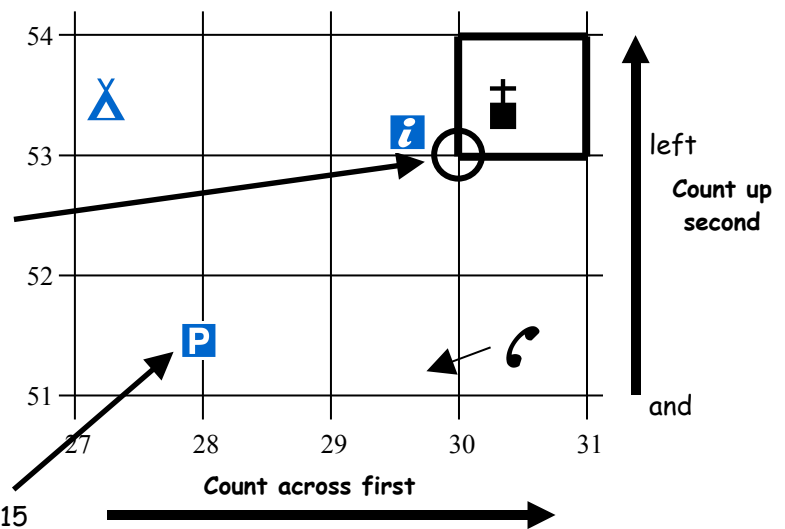
Learn these!  
They come up  
every year

Try and practice using contour lines to describe the relief of an area (the shape of the land).

**d) 4 Figure Grid References:**

Remember:

1. count across and then up
2. the grid reference is the bottom hand corner of the square
3. The church with a tower is in 3053



**e) 6 Figure Grid References:**

Get the square right and then add the tenths across the square the symbol is -

- the campsite is 27 and 2 tenths across 53 and 4 tenths up the square - so it's at 272534
- the car park is on the line so it's at 280515

You'll get a tenth each way, but you can be precise - each square is 2cm wide so each tenth is 2mm. If you want to be certain then measure it - that's what we do when we write the markscheme!!

- the phone box is a tricky one. It's actually in grid square 2951 - look at the arrow: that shows you where the symbol actually is. The 6 figure reference is 298512.

**f) Longer Questions:**

The chance are that there will be some 4 or 5 mark questions as well using maps. These will usually be level marked - so you need to remember to do more than simply list points. Common questions might ask things like:

- compare two villages - comparing involves looking for similarities and differences on the map. Is one bigger, a different shape or does it have more services in it?
- explain why the roads go where they do - look at the contours in this case. Do roads stick to the flatter ground? Do they link towns, perhaps bypassing them? Do they avoid marshland or wide rivers?
- provide evidence of tourist activities - use the tourist information part of the key in this case. Try and link the landscape with activities as well - walking on the hills; canoeing on the lakes for example. Note that evidence that tourists visit is not things like this - it's evidence that things are provided for tourists: car parks, camp sites, hotels and information points for example.

Try to get lots of practice with OS maps - they really do make a whole lot of difference. We have lots of maps and lots of questions so ask for them. If there's something that you don't get then ask someone to explain it to you: the sooner the better.

**2. Sketch Maps**

You might get sketch maps to use, in which case make sure that you look really carefully at the key, scale line and north arrow. And then use them - don't say somewhere is "above", say it's "north of"; don't say it's "near", say it's 2km away - even better, say it's "2km east of..."

If you have to describe a route using a map you need to be quite precise. Say what you will pass on each side, but use distance and direction as well: "after 2km you pass a post office on the north side of the road".

The key with mapwork is to be precise. The marks are easy to get if you know what you're doing but you need to work at being accurate - "good enough" isn't!!