YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY · BOOKLET 1 OF 3

Geography All Around Us

The branches, the world map, Britain, and map skills

The foundations. Everything else builds on this booklet.

This belongs to **Henry**.

1. All Around Us | 2. Oceania and Hazards | 3. Fieldwork

The plan in one line

Understand the idea first. Then learn the facts. Then practise using them.

BEFORE YOU START

How to use this booklet

Read this page once. Then you can ignore it.

How each topic works

- Each topic starts with **the big question**. That is what the topic is really about.
- Then comes **the idea**. Read it first. Make sure it makes sense before anything else.
- Then pictures and key words to lock it in.
- Then questions, which get a little harder each time.

The kinds of question

Quick check

Short questions on what you remember. Answers are at the back.

Explain why

A question that asks for reasons. There is an example to read first.

Map practice

Using a map to find references, directions and distances. The skill that wins the most marks.

A few rules that help

- Do one page at a time. You do not have to do it all at once.
- Nothing here is timed. Stop whenever you need to.
- Map skills are best done in short bursts, often. A little and often beats one long go.
- Reading the example answers is part of the work. It is not cheating.

THE BACKBONE

The things to know cold

> If you only nail a few things, nail these. Everything in this booklet hangs off them.

The three branches of geography

Physical (the natural world) · **Human** (people) · **Environmental** (how the two affect each other).

The world

7 continents. 5 oceans. The **Pacific** is the largest ocean. **Asia** is the largest continent.

Britain

Great Britain, the United Kingdom and the British Isles are **three different things**. Topic 3 makes this clear.

Lines on the globe

Latitude lines run across (like the rungs of a ladder). **Longitude** lines run up and down (top to bottom).

The map skills toolkit

Compass directions, grid references, height from contours, scale and distance, and OS symbols. Topic 4.

THE SKILL BEHIND THE MARKS

How to answer an "explain" question: P E E

The longer questions want the same shape. Learn it once and use it everywhere.

P

Point

Say your answer clearly.

E

Evidence

Give a fact or an example that proves it.

E

Explain

Say why that fact proves your point. This wins the marks.

A worked example

Question: *Explain one reason map scale is useful.*

EXAMPLE ANSWER

Point. Map scale is useful because it lets you work out real distances.

Evidence. On a 1:25,000 map, 1 cm on the map stands for 250 m in real life.

Explain. This matters because you can measure a route with a ruler and then turn it into a real distance, so you know how far you actually have to travel.

The third part does the real work. It says *why it matters*, not just what it is.

TOPIC 1

Understanding geography

> **The big question:** What is geography actually the study of?

The idea

Geography is the study of the world and the people in it.

It is split into three branches. Think of them as three lenses you can look through.

Physical

The natural world

Rivers, mountains, weather, coasts. Things that would be here without people.

Human

People

Cities, jobs, population, where and how people live.

Environmental

The two together

How people and nature affect each other. Pollution, climate, looking after nature.

Here is why this matters.

Almost everything in geography fits into one of these three.

When you meet a new topic, ask: is this physical, human or environmental? That tells you what kind of thing you are looking at.

Watch out

Many topics are more than one branch at once. A city by a river is human *and* physical. That is normal. Say which parts are which.

TOPIC 1: QUESTIONS

Understanding geography: your turn

QUICK CHECK

1. Name the three branches of geography.

2. Which branch is about the natural world?

3. Give one example of human geography.

4. Which branch looks at how people and nature affect each other?

EXPLAIN WHY

A river running through a city is studied by more than one branch of geography. Explain why.

EXAMPLE ANSWER

Point. A river in a city involves both physical and human geography.

Evidence. The river itself is a natural feature, which is physical, but the city around it is built by people, which is human.

Explain. This matters because geographers often look at how the two link, for example how people use the river for water and transport, which is environmental geography.

TOPIC 2

The world map in your head

> **The big question:** Where are the main parts of the world, and how do we describe where a place is?

The idea

To study any place, you first need a map of the world in your head.

Start with the biggest pieces: the continents and the oceans.

7 continents

- Asia (the largest)
- Africa
- North America
- South America
- Antarctica
- Europe
- Australia (Oceania)

5 oceans

- Pacific (the largest)
- Atlantic
- Indian
- Southern
- Arctic

Some famous features

Mountain ranges

The Himalayas (Asia, the highest), the Andes (South America, the longest), the Alps (Europe).

Rivers

The Nile (Africa), the Amazon (South America, the largest), the Thames (UK).

Deserts

The Sahara (Africa, the hot desert). Antarctica is also a desert, but a cold one.

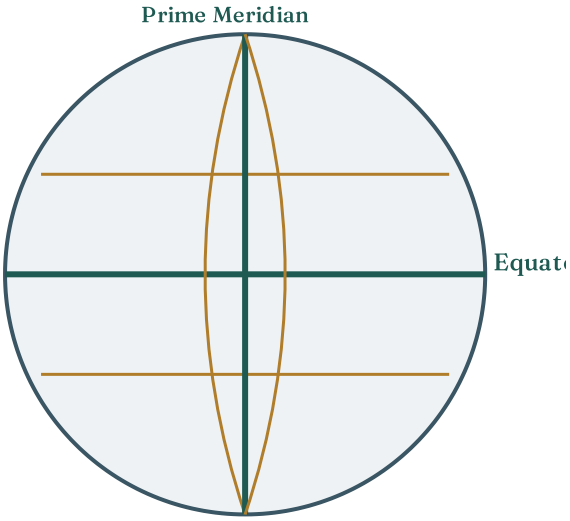
Watch out

A desert is not always hot and sandy. A desert is anywhere that gets very little rain or snow. That is why Antarctica counts as a desert.

Latitude and longitude

The idea

To say exactly where a place is, we use two sets of lines.



Latitude lines run across. Longitude lines run from top to bottom.

Latitude

Lines that run across, telling you how far north or south you are. The **Equator** is the line around the middle.

Longitude

Lines that run up and down, telling you how far east or west you are. The **Prime Meridian** is the starting line.

A way to remember

Lat**itude** is like the rungs of a **ladder**, going across. Both have the same shape across the page.

TOPIC 2: QUESTIONS

The world map: your turn

QUICK CHECK

1. How many continents are there? Name three.

2. Which is the largest ocean?

3. Name the five oceans.

4. Which lines tell you how far north or south you are?

5. What is the name of the line of latitude around the middle of the Earth?

6. Why does Antarctica count as a desert?

TOPIC 3

Great Britain, the UK and the British Isles

> **The big question:** Why are these three names not the same thing?

The idea

People mix these up all the time. They are three different things, getting bigger each time.

Each box sits inside the next. The Republic of Ireland is in the British Isles, but not in the UK.

Great Britain

One island. England, Scotland and Wales.

United Kingdom (UK)

Great Britain plus Northern Ireland.

British Isles

All the islands together, including the whole island of Ireland. So it includes the Republic of Ireland, which is its own country.

Watch out

England is not the same as Britain, and Britain is not the same as the UK. The Republic of Ireland is in the British Isles but is not part of the UK.

TOPIC 3: QUESTIONS

Britain: your turn

QUICK CHECK

1. Which three countries make up Great Britain?

2. What does the United Kingdom include that Great Britain does not?

3. Which country is in the British Isles but not in the UK?

4. Which of the three is the biggest group: Great Britain, the UK, or the British Isles?

EXPLAIN WHY

Explain why it is wrong to say "England" when you mean the whole United Kingdom.

EXAMPLE ANSWER

Point. England is only one part of the United Kingdom.

Evidence. The UK is made up of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Explain. So saying England means the whole UK leaves out three other parts, which is not correct and would annoy people who live in them.

TOPIC 4

Map skills: the toolkit

> **The big question:** How do you read a map well enough to find places, directions and distances?

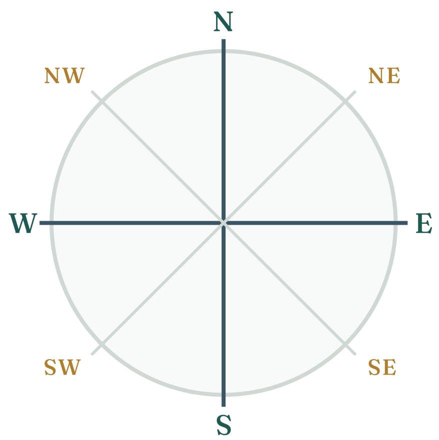
Why this topic matters most

Map skills come up again and again in the exam.

They are worth a lot of marks, and they are bankable. Once you can do them, you can do them.

The next few pages take one skill at a time. Do them in short bursts.

Skill 1: compass directions



Eight points. Going clockwise from the top: N, NE, E, SE, S, SW, W, NW.

A way to remember the four main points

Clockwise from the top: **N**ever **E**at **S**hredded **W**heat. North, East, South, West.

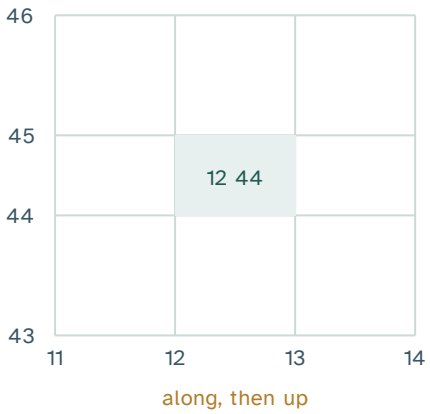
Skill 2: grid references

Four figure grid references

A four figure grid reference finds a whole **square** on the map.

The rule: **along the corridor, then up the stairs.**

Read the number along the bottom first, then the number up the side. Use the lines at the **bottom left** corner of the square.



The shaded square is 1244. Along the bottom to 12, then up the side to 44.

Six figure grid references

A six figure reference pinpoints an **exact spot**, not just a square.

Imagine each square split into tenths. Add one more digit to each number, for how far across and how far up you are inside the square.

So 12 44 becomes something like **125 446**. Still along first, then up.

Watch out

Always go along first, then up. Mixing up the order is the most common mistake. The three across digits come first, then the three up digits.

Skill 3: height and contours

The idea

Maps are flat, but the land is not. **Contour lines** show height.

A contour line joins all the places that are the same height above sea level.

The key rule is about the **gaps** between them.

Lines close together mean a steep slope. Lines far apart mean a gentle slope.

- Contour lines **close together** mean the land is **steep**.
- Contour lines **far apart** mean the land is **gentle and flat**.
- The number on a contour line is the height in metres.
- A small number with a dot, like **·152**, is a spot height. It marks the exact height of that point.

Skill 4: scale and distance

What scale means

A map is a shrunk down version of the real world. The **scale** tells you how much it has been shrunk.

A scale of **1:25,000** means one unit on the map equals 25,000 of the same units in real life.

The two scales to know

1:25,000 means 1 cm on the map is 250 m in real life.

1:50,000 means 1 cm on the map is 500 m in real life.

Measuring distance

- For a straight line, use a ruler to measure the distance on the map in centimetres.
- For a winding road or river, lay a piece of string along it, then measure the string.
- Then use the scale to turn map centimetres into real distance.

Worked example

A road measures 6 cm on a 1:25,000 map. Each cm is 250 m. So 6 × 250 = 1,500 m, which is 1.5 km.

A shortcut for OS maps

Each grid square on an OS map is **1 km** across in real life. So if two places are two squares apart, that is roughly 2 km.

Skill 5: OS map symbols

The idea

Maps use small symbols instead of words, so they do not get too crowded.

You do not need every symbol. Know the common ones, and remember a map always has a key.

	**Church with a tower.** A cross with a small square. A spire would be a cross with a small circle.
	**Parking.** A blue P.
	**Campsite.** A small tent shape.
	**Information point.** A letter i, often for tourists.
	**Contour line.** A thin brown line joining places of the same height.

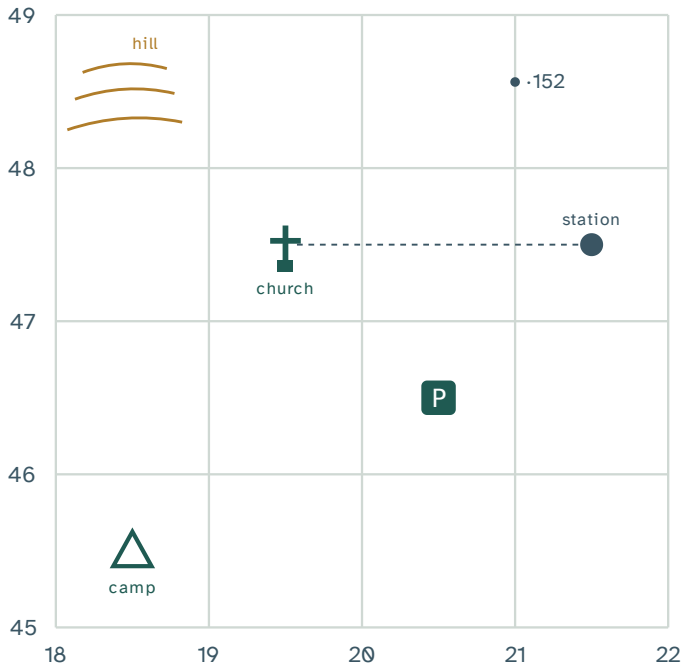
Watch out

You never have to learn every symbol. In the exam there will be a key. The skill is knowing how to use the key quickly.

TOPIC 4: MAP PRACTICE

Use the map to answer the questions

Study the map below. Each grid square is 1 km across in real life. Then answer the questions on the next page.



A simple map. The numbers along the bottom are eastings. The numbers up the side are northings.

TOPIC 4: MAP PRACTICE

Map questions

Use the map on the page before this one.

MAP PRACTICE

1. Give the four figure grid reference of the church.

2. Give the six figure grid reference of the parking (P).

3. What does the symbol in square 1845 show?

4. In which compass direction is the campsite from the church?

5. The church and the station are in a straight line. Each square is 1 km. How far apart are they in real life?

6. The map is 1:25,000. Two places are 4 cm apart on the map. How far apart are they in real life?

7. In the top left corner the brown contour lines are close together. What does that tell you about the land there?

TOPIC 5

Five places to know

> **The big question:** Where are these five places, and what kind of place is each one?

The idea

You do not need lots of detail on these. For each one, know **where it is** and **what kind of place it is**.

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

A big city on the coast of South America. Famous beaches, and crowded informal housing called favelas. Mostly human geography.

Victoria Falls

A huge waterfall on the Zambezi River in southern Africa. Physical geography.

Mount St Helens, USA

A volcano in North America that erupted famously in 1980. Physical geography and tectonics.

Antarctica

The continent at the South Pole. The coldest, windiest place on Earth, and a cold desert. No permanent population, only research stations.

Peak District, UK

A national park in central England. Hills and moorland, used for farming and tourism. Physical and human together.

TOPIC 5: QUESTIONS

Five places: your turn

QUICK CHECK

1. Which continent is Rio de Janeiro in?

2. What kind of feature is Victoria Falls, and which river is it on?

3. What kind of place is Mount St Helens?

4. Give two reasons Antarctica is unusual.

5. What is the Peak District, and what is it used for?

PUTTING IT TOGETHER

How this booklet links up

These ideas are not separate boxes. They join together, and they carry into the next two booklets.

The branches sort everything

Physical, human and environmental are a lens for the whole subject. Every place in Topic 5, and every hazard in Booklet 2, can be split into these three.

Skills are the toolkit, not a topic to forget

Map skills and, later, data skills are how geographers study every place. You will use them on real maps and real data, not just in this topic.

Where you are explains what happens

Latitude and location are not just facts to learn. Where a place sits on the Earth helps explain its weather and its hazards. That idea is the heart of Booklet 2 on Oceania.

IF TIME IS SHORT

What to revise first

If you cannot do everything, protect these. They carry the most marks across the whole exam.

1 **Map skills**

Grid references, scale and distance, contours, symbols. The biggest, most bankable set of marks.

2 **The three branches**

Physical, human, environmental. Needed for definitions and multiple choice.

3 **Great Britain, the UK and the British Isles**

Easy marks once the diagram is clear.

4 **Continents, oceans, latitude and longitude**

Quick recall marks.

The must know floor for this booklet

- Read a four figure and a six figure grid reference. Along first, then up.
- Use scale to work out a real distance.
- Tell steep land from gentle land using contour lines.
- Define physical, human and environmental geography, with one example each.
- The difference between Great Britain, the UK and the British Isles.
- 7 continents, 5 oceans, and what latitude and longitude are.

MARK YOUR OWN

Answers to the quick check and map questions

For the short questions only. The explain questions have examples next to them already.

Topic 1: Understanding geography

1. Physical, human and environmental.
2. Physical.
3. Any one of: cities, jobs, population, where people live.
4. Environmental.

Topic 2: The world map

1. Seven. Any three of: Asia, Africa, North America, South America, Antarctica, Europe, Australia (Oceania).
2. The Pacific.
3. Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Southern, Arctic.
4. Lines of latitude.
5. The Equator.
6. Because it gets very little rain or snow, and a desert is defined by low rainfall, not by heat.

Topic 3: Britain

1. England, Scotland and Wales.
2. Northern Ireland.
3. The Republic of Ireland.
4. The British Isles.

Topic 5: Five places

1. South America.
2. A waterfall on the Zambezi River.
3. A volcano.

4. Any two of: it is the coldest and windiest place on Earth, it is a cold desert, it has no permanent population, only research stations.
5. A national park in England, used for farming and tourism.

Topic 4: Map practice

1. 1947.
2. 205 465.
3. A campsite.
4. South west.
5. 2 km (they are two grid squares apart).
6. 4 × 250 m = 1,000 m, which is 1 km.
7. The land there is steep.