

Geography: Map Skills

Key Vocabulary	
Ordnance Survey (OS) map	A map which shows all of the roads, paths, landmarks and physical features of an area in the United Kingdom in detail.
scale	A ratio of size in a map. It is usually printed like this 1:100 000. 1 unit on the map represents 100 000 of the same units on the ground e.g. 1cm represents 100,000cm (1km).
eastings	The vertical lines on OS maps – they increase in value as you travel east on the map.
northings	The horizontal lines on OS maps – they increase in value as you travel north on the map.
grid reference	Grid references are used to locate a particular grid on a map.
symbols	Small pictures, letters or lines that represent a feature e.g. a road or landmark.
atlas	A collection of maps, often of each country in the world.
National Grid	A system used to split Great Britain into 100km squares.

Key Knowledge

4-figure grid reference

The grid reference is 17,43

6-figure grid reference

OS Map Symbols

1:25 000 scale Explorer™

8-point compass

OS maps are always oriented so that north is at the top.