

Distributional Maps

Chapter 1: Distributional Maps · Topic 1

Key Concept

Choropleth maps use different colours or shading to represent varying values of data, like population density, across different regions.

Dot maps use dots to represent quantities, with each dot representing a specific value, useful for showing distribution patterns like population.

Isopleth maps use lines connecting points of equal value, like isotherms (equal temperature) or isohyets (equal rainfall).

Distributional maps help us visually understand patterns and variations in geographic phenomena across different regions.

Quick Revision Notes

- Choropleth maps: colours/shading show varying values.
- Example: population density by region.
- Dot maps: dots represent quantities.
- Each dot = specific value.
- Isopleth maps: lines connect equal values.
- Examples: isotherms (temp), isohyets (rainfall).
- These maps show geographic patterns.
- They help visualise regional variations.

Practice Questions

- 1 Create a simple choropleth map of a sample region.
- 2 Create a dot map showing a sample distribution.
- 3 Research an isotherm map and its use.
- 4 Discuss the difference between these map types.
- 5 Practice reading a distributional map if available.
- 6 Explain when to use each type of distributional map.