

Scale and Distance

Chapter 2: Scale and Distance · Topic 1

Key Concept

Scale can be shown as a ratio (like 1:50,000, meaning 1 unit on the map equals 50,000 units in reality), a statement, or a graphic bar.

To calculate real distance, we measure the map distance and multiply it by the scale factor.

A large-scale map shows a small area with great detail, while a small-scale map shows a large area with less detail.

Understanding scale helps us accurately interpret maps for navigation, planning, and understanding real-world distances.

Quick Revision Notes

- Scale relates map distance to real distance.
- 1:50,000 means 1 unit equals 50,000 units.
- Scale can be a ratio, statement or graphic bar.
- We calculate real distance using scale factor.
- Large-scale maps show small areas with detail.
- Small-scale maps show large areas with less detail.
- Scale helps navigation and planning.
- It helps understand real-world distances.

Practice Questions

- 1 Calculate the real distance for a 5cm map distance at scale 1:100,000.
- 2 Discuss the difference between large-scale and small-scale maps.
- 3 Find the scale on a map you have.
- 4 Practice measuring distance on a map.
- 5 Discuss why scale matters for hikers.
- 6 Create a simple scale bar for a map.