

Map Scale

Chapter 9: Map Scale · Topic 1

Key Concept

Map scale can be shown as a statement (1 cm = 1 km), a representative fraction (1:100000), or a graphical bar scale.

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

To calculate actual distance, we multiply the map distance by the scale, like 5 cm on a 1:100000 map representing 5 km in reality.

Understanding map scale is essential for accurately measuring distances, planning routes, and interpreting geographic information from maps.

Quick Revision Notes

- Scale shown as statement, fraction, or bar.
- Statement: 1 cm = 1 km.
- Representative fraction: 1:100000.
- Large-scale map: small area, great detail.
- Small-scale map: large area, less detail.
- Actual distance = map distance × scale.
- Example: 5cm on 1:100000 map = 5km real.
- Scale is essential for measuring, route planning.

Practice Questions

- 1 Calculate actual distance for 4cm on a 1:50000 map.
- 2 Discuss the difference between large-scale and small-scale maps.
- 3 Identify the scale type used on a sample map.
- 4 Practice measuring distance using a map's scale.
- 5 Discuss why scale matters for route planning.
- 6 Explain the three types of map scale representation.