

Identification and Recognition of Landforms

Chapter 4: Identification and Recognition of Landforms · Topic 1

Key Concept

A plateau appears as a relatively flat area at higher elevation, identifiable by widely spaced contours at higher elevation values.

A river valley typically shows V-shaped contours pointing upstream, often with a river symbol running through the lowest point.

A ridge (elongated hill) shows contours forming an elongated pattern, higher in the middle and decreasing outward on both sides.

Practising landform identification on maps builds essential geography skills for understanding terrain and answering exam questions.

Quick Revision Notes

- A plateau shows widely spaced contours at higher elevation.
- It appears relatively flat at height.
- A river valley shows V-shaped contours pointing upstream.
- A river symbol often runs through the lowest point.
- A ridge shows an elongated contour pattern.
- It's higher in the middle, decreasing outward.
- Practice builds landform identification skills.
- This is essential for geography exams.

Practice Questions

- 1 Identify a plateau on a contour map.
- 2 Identify a river valley using V-shaped contours.
- 3 Identify a ridge on a contour map.
- 4 Discuss features that help identify each landform.
- 5 Practice sketching contour patterns for different landforms.
- 6 Explain how to recognise landforms on maps.