

Conventional Signs and Symbols

Chapter 5: Conventional Signs and Symbols · Topic 1

Key Concept

Conventional symbols are standardised, meaning the same symbol represents the same feature across different maps, ensuring consistency.

Common symbols include lines for roads and railways, specific shapes for buildings, and shading patterns for vegetation or water bodies.

A map's legend (or key) explains what each symbol represents, essential for correctly interpreting the map's information.

Learning common conventional signs helps us read maps quickly and accurately without needing to guess what different symbols mean.

Quick Revision Notes

- Conventional symbols are standardised across maps.
- Same symbol always represents the same feature.
- Lines represent roads and railways.
- Shapes represent buildings.
- Shading patterns represent vegetation or water.
- A legend explains what symbols mean.
- This is essential for correct map interpretation.
- Learning symbols helps read maps quickly and accurately.

Practice Questions

- 1 Find five conventional symbols on a map and their meanings.
- 2 Discuss why standardised symbols are useful.
- 3 Practice reading a map's legend.
- 4 Create your own symbol for a map feature.
- 5 Discuss why consistency in symbols matters.
- 6 Identify a road, building and water body symbol on a map.