

# 1. Introduction to Maps

## EXERCISE

1. Choose the right answer from the four alternatives given below:

(i) Which one of the following is essential for the network of lines and polygons to be called a map?

- (a) Map Legend
- (b) Symbols
- (c) North Direction
- (d) Map Scale

Answer: (d) Map Scale

(ii) A map bearing a scale of 1 : 4000 and larger is called :

- (a) Cadastral map
- (b) Topographical map
- (c) Wall map
- (d) Atlas map

Answer: (a) Cadastral map

(iii) Which one of the following is NOT an essential element of maps?

- (a) Map Projection
- (b) Map Generalisation
- (c) Map Design
- (d) History of Maps

Answer: (d) History of Maps

2. Answer the following questions in about 30 words:

**(i) What is map generalisation?**

**Answer:** Map generalization, is the method whereby information is selected and represented on a map in a

way that adapts to the scale of the display medium of the map, not necessarily preserving all intricate geographical or other cartographic details. For example, a general purpose map is drawn to show information such as relief, drainage, vegetation, settlements, means of transportation, etc.

**(ii) Why is map design important?**

**Answer:** Map design involves the planning of graphic characteristics of maps like appropriate symbols, their size and form, selection of colours and shades, etc. It requires thorough understanding of the principles that govern the effectiveness of graphic communication.

**(iii) What are different types of small-scale maps?**

**Answer:** Small scale maps show large areas of land on a small space. They are called small scale because the representative fraction is relatively small. Small-scale maps are of two types:

(a) Wall Maps

(b) Atlas Maps

**(iv) List out two major types of large-scale maps?**

**Answer:** Large scale maps are drawn to show small areas at a relatively large-scale. Large-scale maps are of two types:

(a) Cadastral maps

(b) Topographical maps

**(v) How is a map different from a sketch?**

**Answer:** A selective, symbolised and generalised representation of the whole or part of the earth at a reduced scale is called map, but simplified map drawn freehand which fails to preserve the true scale or orientation is called sketch.

**3. Write an explanatory account of types of maps**

**Answer:**

**Types of Maps Based on Scale:** On the basis of scale, maps may be classified into large-scale and small-scale. **Large-scale maps** are further divided into Cadastral maps and Topographical maps. **Small-scale maps** are further divided into the Wall Maps and Atlas Maps.

**Types of Maps Based on Function:** The maps may also be classified on the basis of their functions into physical maps and cultural maps. **Physical maps** show natural features such as relief, geology, soils, drainage, elements of weather, climate and vegetation, etc. **Cultural maps** show man-made features like population distribution and growth, sex and age, social and religious composition, literacy, etc.