**Application of Geographical Skills**

This will be assessed in the final exam and will have 10 marks.

It will be an extended response question requiring the learner to apply geographical skills acquired during the Course.

The skills assessed in the question paper will include mapping skills and the use of numerical/graphical information.

**OS Maps – The Basics** - You need to be familiar with the basics of OS map work and should be confidentwith the following;

* 4-figure grid references for an area
* 6-figure grid references for an point
* Measuring distance and area on a 1:50000 map extract
* Height – contours, spot heights, shapes
* Compass directions
* Symbols (you will be provided with a key)

**OS Maps – Interpretation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Physical Factors** | **Human Factors** |
| Site | Settlement Patterns |
| Relief | Communications |
| Drainage | Amenities & Activities |
| Environment | Labour & Market |

You should be able to look at an OS map and apply your skills to describe both physical and human factors that could influence any future developments or proposals which are put forward . You should always describe these in relation to the issue you are dealing with.

The table outlines some of the features which you may have to interpret and describe when answering this question.

***When answering this question you must always make reference to the map by including named examples and grid references. You should also use the additional numerical and graphical information to support your answer.***

***You must consider carefully the brief which has been given and make sure you comment on all the points of this.***

**Site**

The site is the actual land that any issue you have been asked to look at is on.

* You should be able to describe the site of a particular area and comment on how this will affect any potential land use in that area.

When describing site you should summarise the area, making reference to the following for example;

* Is there plenty of flat land to build on, with room for expansion if required. How do you know?
* Is it good, solid land to build on eg no marshland nearby.
* How expensive would the land be? How do you know?
* What are the surroundings like? Rural/Urban?

***Task 1; Look at the OS map extract of Edinburgh. Describe the site of the land in grid square 3772***

**Relief**

Contour lines are a map’s way of showing you how high the land is. They join together places of the same height and form patterns that help us to imagine what the land actually looks like.

Remember that the closer together the contour lines are, the steeper the land. Contour lines that are wide apart show us that the land is flatter.

* You should be able to describe the relief of the land in a particular area and comment on how this will affect any potential land use in that area.
* You should be able to give the height of the land by using the contour lines or spot heights.

When describing relief you should make reference to the following;

* Is it high or low lying? How do you know?
* Is the slope steep or gentle? How do you know?
* Are there any particular landforms eg. Ridges, valleys, cliffs etc.?
* What is the aspect of the land? (ie which way it faces)…..remember **s**outh facing = **s**unny

***Task 2; Look at the OS map extract of Edinburgh. Give a 4 figure grid reference for a square which has***

1. Flat land -
2. Steep slopes -
3. A gentle slope -
4. A south facing slope -
5. Land over 200m –

***Task 3; Describe, in detail the relief in grid square 2465***

**Drainage**

Drainage on a map is identified by looking surface water features such as rivers, canals, lakes, marsh etc.

* You should be able to describe the drainage of the land in a particular area and comment on how this will affect any potential land use in that area.
* You should be able to give the names of specific drainage features where possible.
* You should also be able to say if an area is well drained or liable to flood.

When describing drainage you should make reference to the following;

* Are there any drainage features present? Name them.
* Could these drainage features impact on any future developments?
* Could the drainage features be used for anything? Eg Leisure or industry
* Are the drainage features natural or manmade?
* Is the area liable to flood or is it well drained? How do you know?
* Is there any other surface water present which could impact any future developments?

***Task 4; Look at the OS map extract of Edinburgh. Name the drainage feature in each if the following grid squares. Give specific names where possible.***

1. 2867 –
2. 3471 –
3. 2872 –
4. 3765 –

***Task 5; Describe, in detail, the drainage in grid square 3472. You should also mention how it may impact on the surrounding landscape.***

**Environment**

The environment surrounding an area is of great importance when planning any new developments or looking at any proposal put forward. There are two main things which need to be considered.

* Can the environment offer any advantages to any developments

  ***or***

* Does the environment need protected in any way?

When describing the environment you should make reference to the following;

* Is it a pleasant environment? For example is there open countryside, golf courses, forest walks etc.
* Does the environment create an eyesore? Are there any manmade developments which cause this?
* Are there any nature reserves, woodland trust, sites of special scientific interest etc. that may need special consideration or protection?

***Task 5; Look at the OS map extract of Edinburgh and answer the following questions giving specific grid references and/or named examples.***

1. Identify a grid square on the map which could offer environmental advantages. Describe what advantages it offers.
2. Identify an area on the map where the landscape has been protected. Describe how it has been protected.
3. What man made features may impact on the environment within the area of the map extract. Describe how it impacts on the environment.

**Settlement Pattern**

The settlement pattern is the distribution of villages, towns and cities on the map.

* You should be able to name any settlements and comment on how these will affect any development and how any development may affect them.

When describing settlements you should make reference to the following;

* What is the distribution and size of the settlements
* How close are the settlements and name them
* Would the settlement impact the development in any way (both positive and negative)
* Would the development impact on the settlement in any way (both positive and negative)

***Task 6; Look at the OS map extract of Edinburgh. Describe, in detail, the settlement pattern as shown on the map extract.***

**Communications**

Communications is a very important factor in the location of any new development or proposal. It takes into account the following;

* Roads
* Railways
* Airports

Roads;

* How far away from your site are they?
* What type of roads are they?
* Do they link up with an urban area?

Railways;

* Is there a railway nearby with stations?
* How would customers get from the station?

Airports;

* Is there an airport nearby? Is this important to your development? Why?

***Task 7; It is proposed to build a visitors centre in Newcraighall (GR 3271). How would the nearby roads and railways impact on this?***

**Amenities & Activities**

This is the things people can do in the local area and which may attract people to the area.

* You should be able to name any amenities & activities and suggest why they might be visited.

When describing amenities and activities you should mention the following;

* What is there that might attract people?
* Why might they attract people?

***Task 8; Look at the map extract of Edinburgh. Name 4 attractions that people would visit in the area and explain why they might go there.***

1.

2.

3.

4.

**Labour & Market**

When describing labour and market you should consider the following;

* Is there a good pool of workers available?
* Where will they come from?
* Is there a market for your product or customers / clients for your development?
* Where will they come from?

**Summary**

All of the factors described here will not be relevant to every situation you are asked to look at and therefore it is vital that you decide which are the most important and then select the correct information from the map to back this up.

The table below gives examples of some of the issues you may have to consider when completing this question in the exam.

***Task 9: For each issue, tick the factors which might be important when considering the development.***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Site** | **Relief** | **Drainage** | **Environment** | **Settlement Patterns** | **Communications** | **Amenities & Activities** | **Labour & Market** |
| Where to locate a hotel & Leisure centre |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Where to locate a retail park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Where to locate a by-pass |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Where to locate a wind farm |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Where to host a carnival |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Where to plan a cycle route |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |