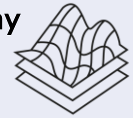
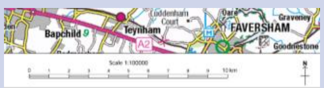
Year 6 Geography Knowledge Organiser – Advanced Map Skills

Vocabulary

1) physical and human features  	Physical features are natural elements such as lakes, mountains and forests, whilst human features are man-made such as roads and urban areas.
2) topography 	The arrangement of the natural and man-made physical features of an area.
3) contour 	Lines on a map to show how steep something is. The closer together the lines, the steeper the land is.
4) elevation 	Refers to the vertical distance of a point above or below a reference level, typically sea level. It is commonly measured in **feet or metres.**
5) scale 	The scale of a map helps us calculate the size, height and dimensions of the features shown on the map and the distances between different points. The scale shows how much bigger the real world is than the map.
6) aerial view 	A view taken from the sky looking down. We sometimes call it a bird's eye view.
7) digital mapping 	A drawing of part of the Earth's surface, shown on a device like a computer, tablet or phone.
8) navigation 	The process of accurately identifying one's position and planning and following a route.

Key knowledge

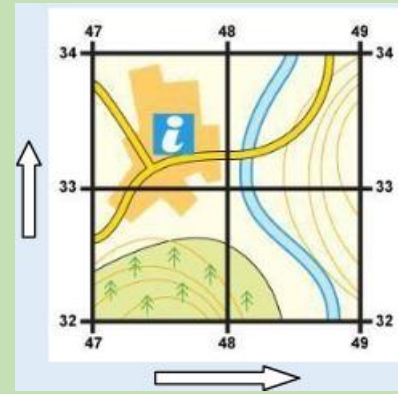
Grid References

Maps have grid lines on them which we use to pinpoint locations by using grid reference. A four-figure grid reference can identify any square on a map whilst six-figure grid references are best for giving exact locations. **Remember that you always go along the corridor before you go up the stairs**.

Step 1: Start at the left-hand side of the map and go east until you get to the bottom left-hand corner of the square you want. Write this number down e.g. 47 (EASTING)

Step 2: Move north until you get to the bottom-left corner of the square you want e.g. 33 (NORTHING)

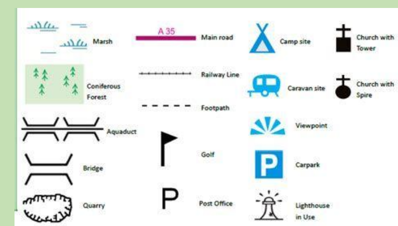
Step 3: Now put your two answers together e.g. 47 33. There is no need to add brackets, commas, dashes etc.



Ordnance Survey (OS)

The Ordnance Survey is an organisation that has mapped the UK. It produces paper maps and digital mapping products.

On each OS map, there will be a key including a set of symbols to represent physical and human features.



Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

It is mapping technology that captures, stores, analyses and displays spatial (3D) and geographical data. This can be used to monitor land use patterns, natural resources and planning and development of infrastructure like transport and access to healthcare.