**Contemporary Issues**

**Assessment Type 1 – Geographical Skills and Applications Task 5**

**How is technology influencing how we use maps and/or define location?**

Create a multimodal presentation, of up to 5 minutes in length, in which you discuss one or more of the problems associated with using maps and finding locations in contemporary society and what strategies are being developed to overcome these problems.

Select from one of the following problems and suggested initial resources. Include at least 3 accurately referenced sources in your presentation.

1. How can we identify maps with a bias (e.g. an economic or political bias)?

“Every single map tells a particular story from a particular perspective.” Graham, M. <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/jan/08/digital-map-what-geoweb-gets-wrong-about-real-streets>

‘Unfortunately, it doesn’t seem like today’s mapmakers are overly concerned with finding the “beautiful, quiet, and happy” routes through life. Instead, Apple and Google are focusing their energies on the map wars’ latest frontier—indoors—with both companies scrambling to survey the places satellites haven’t yet been able to reach. To them, the dream is not just guiding you to the mall but directly to the store you’re looking for–and eventually, in retail establishments of a certain size, to the very item you desire.’ <http://www.wired.com/2014/07/we-need-this-a-maps-app-that-algorithmically-finds-you-the-scenic-route/>

1. Should we assume every map produced using modern technology is accurate? How can we identify inaccurate maps?

Bonnett, A *Off the Map: Lost Spaces, Invisible Cities, Forgotten Islands, Feral Places and What They Tell Us About the World*  p 11-16

Wiseman, A *When Maps Lie: Tips from a geographer on how to avoid being fooled*. <http://www.citylab.com/design/2015/06/when-maps-lie/396761/>

1. How can we use technology to design maps for a specific purpose?

<https://www.ted.com/talks/daniele_quercia_happy_maps?language=en>

‘It starts by acknowledging that the fastest route isn’t always the best one.’ <http://www.wired.com/2014/07/we-need-this-a-maps-app-that-algorithmically-finds-you-the-scenic-route/>

1. How can we define location (and deliver parcels we have purchased online) when 75% of the world’s population does not have an address or access to GPS coordinates? Consider innovations such as what3words, the Natural Area Coding System or Mapcode.

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2015/nov/01/meet-me-there-what3words-redefines-geolocations>

In this assessment task you should demonstrate

* knowledge and understanding of the geographical concept of place - the human and physical characteristics of a location (KU1)
* analysis and evaluation of information to form conclusions about the influence of technology on maps and how we use them (AE2)
* apply geographical skills, including the use of spatial technologies such as Google maps, to identify and examine geographical issues (Ap1)
* communicate geographical information, using subject-specific terminology and visual representations in the multimodal presentation (Ap2)

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| **Knowledge and understanding** | **Analysis and Evaluation** | **Application** |
| Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts.  Comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the natural, built, economic, and/or social characteristics of places. | Insightful analysis of the interactions between, and interdependence of, people and environments at local, national, or global levels.  Comprehensive analysis and evaluation of information to determine possible outcomes, make justifiable recommendations, and form conclusions. | Purposeful and well-considered application of a variety of geographical and fieldwork skills, including the use of spatial technologies, to identify and examine geographical issues.  Clear and coherent communication of relevant geographical information, using appropriate subject-specific terminology and visual representations. |
| Well-considered knowledge and informed understanding of geographical concepts.  Well-considered knowledge and informed understanding of the natural, built, economic, and/or social characteristics of places. | Well-informed analysis of the interactions between, and interdependence of, people and environments at local, national, or global levels.  Detailed and well-considered analysis and evaluation of information to determine possible outcomes, make justifiable recommendations, and form conclusions. | Well-considered application of different geographical and fieldwork skills, including the use of spatial technologies, to identify and examine geographical issues.  Clear communication of relevant geographical information, using appropriate subject-specific terminology and visual representations. |
| Considered knowledge understanding of geographical concepts.  Considered knowledge and informed understanding of the natural, built, economic, and/or social characteristics of places. | Informed analysis of the interactions between, and interdependence of, people and environments at local, national, or global levels.  Considered analysis and some evaluation of information to determine possible outcomes, make recommendations, and form conclusions. | Competent application of geographical and fieldwork skills, including the use of spatial technologies, to identify and examine geographical issues.  Competent communication of generally relevant geographical information, using mostly appropriate subject-specific terminology and visual representations |
| Recognition and basic understanding of some geographical concepts.  Basic awareness and some understanding of aspects of the natural, built, economic, or social characteristics of places. | Basic consideration and description of the interactions between, and interdependence of, people and environments at local, national, or global levels.  Superficial consideration of information to describe possible outcomes and recommendations. | Some application of different geographical and fieldwork skills, which may include the use of spatial technologies.  Basic communication of some geographical information, using occasional subject-specific terminology and visual representations. |
| Identification of one or more geographical concepts.  Emerging awareness of aspects of the natural, built, economic, or social characteristics of places. | Brief or attempted description of the interactions between, or interdependence of, people and environments at local, national, or global levels.  Description of information linked to a possible outcome or recommendation. | Limited application of geographical and fieldwork skills.  Attempted communication of geographical information, with limited use of subject-specific terminology or visual representations. |