

MOUNTAIN SKILLS I

Practical Assignments for Mountain Skills Candidates

Day 1

Block one - Map reading

Identification of major symbols.

Map setting by linear features.

Principles of contour features.

Walk to a steep slope, assess the ground, relate the ground to the map.

Walk to a shallow angled slope, assess the ground, relate the ground to the map.

Walk to a spur, assess the ground, relate the ground to the map.

Walk to a re-entrant, assess the ground, relate the ground to the map.

Choose a distant feature (500m-1km), estimate distance, estimate how long the journey might take. Walk and reassess.

Walk to hill top, assess the ground, relate the ground to the map.

Self location, a systematic approach. Analyse the ground down slope, up slope, to the left and to the right. Relate that information to the map.

Choose a col, 500m-1km distant, estimate distance, estimate how long the journey might take. Walk & reassess.

Stand on the col, assess the ground, relate the ground to the map.

Practice rough distance measurement.

Walk to a distinct change of slope, assess the ground, relate the ground to the map.

Walk to a feature out of sight using a tick list to find the way. Choose a collecting feature or a 'one feature too far'.

Day 2

Block two

Timing and pacing

Pacing exercise in the forest/courtyard.

Measurement of distance using the roamer.

Measure the distance to a feature on the hill; circa 200-300m. Over easier terrain. PACE. Instructor offers guidance to 'roughly what is 100 200 300m.'

Measure the distance to a feature on the hill; circa 200-300m, travelling uphill. Compare to previous results.

Measure the distance to a feature on the hill; circa 200-300m, travelling down hill.

Introduction to timing. Easier timed legs, more than 500m.

Try to keep the height time much less than the distance time.

Over lunch, introduction to the compass, initially map setting then taking basic bearings. There is no need to introduce magnetic variation at this stage.

Navigating to features out of sight approx. 500m away using timing, pacing, mapsetting using the compass and using a tick list.

Navigating to features out of sight more than 500m away using timing, pacing, following an elementary bearing and using a tick list.

MOUNTAIN SKILLS II

Practical Assignments for Mountain Skills Candidates

Day 1

Block three

Compass work

Revision of map reading, self-location, timing and pacing.

Revision of compass work, introduction to magnetic variation.

Combined navigation techniques; choosing the correct technique for a given leg.

Aiming off and collecting features.

Converting magnetic bearings back to grid bearings.

Grid references.

Night

Block four

Night navigation

Simple legs, 300-500m. Clear and large objectives.

Tick list, collecting features and elementary sweeping.

1.5-2 hours, can start at or before dusk.

Day 2

Block Five

Steeper terrain and macro navigation

Walk climb uphill in craggy terrain making route choices.

Safeguard each other by spotting and by supporting.

Traverse some craggy ground where route choices are necessary.

Descend some craggy ground where spotting and supporting are required.

Navigate over a leg of at least 1.5km.

Work out a route choice and time for a leg over three kilometres where ridges or valleys have to be crossed.