**COMPONENTS OF GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS)**

Geographic information system (GIS) is a system designed to capture, store, manipulate, analyze, manage, and present all types of spatial or geographical data.

The [acronym](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Acronym) GIS is sometimes used for Geographical Information Science or Geospatial Information Studies to refer to the academic discipline or career of working with geographic [information systems](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_system) and is a large domain within the broader academic discipline of [Geo-Informatics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geoinformatics).

In general, GIS describes any [information system](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Information_systems) that integrates, stores, edits, analyzes, shares, and displays [geographic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Georeference) information. [GIS applications](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GIS_applications) are tools that allow users to create interactive queries (user-created searches), analyze spatial information, edit data in maps, and present the results of all these operations. Geographic information science is the science underlying geographic concepts, applications, and systems.

**SOURCES OF GEOGRAPHIC DATA**

1. Satellite images
2. Existing maps
3. Land survey
4. Socio-economic statistical records
5. Aerial photographs
6. Fieldwork or survey

**COMPONENTS OF GIS**

Geographic Information System has five key components which are:

1. **Hardware** e.g. keyboard, CPU, mouse, hard disk etc.
2. **Software** e.g. Microsoft word, Corel draw, Microsoft excel, computer games etc.
3. **Data**
4. **People:** these are the people who design and maintain the system and they also develop plans for applying it.
5. **Method:** A successful GIS operates according to a well-designed plan and business rules.

**GENERAL EVALUATION**

1. What is GIS?
2. Mention two features that can be represented with GIS.
3. Give examples of hardware.
4. What is software?