

Exercise walk-through

Spatial Concepts ■ 1.4

eXercise

You must be able to

- distinguish **absolute location** 绝对位置 from **relative location** 相对位置
- explain **distance decay** 距离衰减 and **time-space compression** 时空压缩
- describe **distribution** 分布 using density, concentration, and pattern
- define **place** 地方 and its meaning

Method — Absolute vs relative location

Absolute location is exact coordinates (40°N, 74°W). **Relative location** describes a place by its position to others ('south of the river, near the station').

Method — Distance decay and time-space compression

Distance decay: interaction weakens as distance grows. **Time-space compression:** technology (planes, internet) makes far places feel closer, weakening distance decay.

Method — Describing distribution

Density = how many per unit area; **concentration** = clustered or dispersed; **pattern** = the arrangement (linear, random, grid).

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State the difference between absolute and relative location.

Solution 2.1

Method: Absolute vs relative location

Worked steps

absolute = exact coordinates/address **B1**; relative = position described in relation to other places **B1**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

Explain what distance decay means.

Solution 2.2

Method: Distance decay and time-space compression

Worked steps

the interaction between two places decreases **B1** as the distance between them increases **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 1 mark

A shop has many customers nearby and very few far away.

- (a) Name the concept this illustrates.
- (b) State how cheap fast delivery could weaken this effect.

Solution 2.3

Worked steps

(a) distance decay **B1**. (b) it shrinks the effect of distance (time-space compression), so distant customers still buy **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Describing a town as 'two hours north of the capital' gives its

A absolute location

B relative location

C density

D projection

Solution 3.1

A absolute location

B relative location 

C density

D projection

Worked steps

B. position relative to another place is relative location.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

Video calls letting teams in different countries work together in real time is an example of

- A** distance decay
- B** time-space compression
- C** environmental determinism
- D** a functional region

Solution 3.2

- A distance decay
- B time-space compression
- C environmental determinism
- D a functional region



Worked steps

- B. technology shrinking the effect of distance is time-space compression.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

Houses in one area are evenly spaced in a grid; in another they are tightly clustered.

- (a) Which term describes the grid arrangement — density, concentration, or pattern?
- (b) Describe the concentration of the clustered houses.

Solution 3.3

Method: Describing distribution

Worked steps

(a) pattern **B1**. (b) clustered / concentrated (rather than dispersed) **B1**.