

1.4 Spatial Concepts

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS distance decay 距离衰减 • relative location 相对位置 • time-space compression 时空压缩
• place 地方 • clustered 聚集

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on **spatial concepts** 空间概念 like location, distance, and pattern.

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

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ 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').

■ 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.

■ Describing distribution

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

2 Practice

2.1 State the difference between absolute and relative location. [2]

2.2 Explain what distance decay means. [2]

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

(a) Name the concept this illustrates. [1]

(b) State how cheap fast delivery could weaken this effect. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 Describing a town as 'two hours north of the capital' gives its [1]

- **A** absolute location
- **B** relative location
- **C** density
- **D** projection

3.2 Video calls letting teams in different countries work together in real time is an example of [1]

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

3.3 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? [1]

(b) Describe the concentration of the clustered houses.

[1]

Solutions

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

2.2 the interaction between two places decreases as the distance between them increases.

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

3.1 B. position relative to another place is relative location.

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

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