

3.4 Types of Diffusion

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 10 marks

KEY WORDS contagious 传染扩散 • hierarchical 等级扩散 • stimulus 刺激扩散 • relocation diffusion 迁移传播
• expansion diffusion 扩展传播

Objective

Build the skills to answer exam questions on the **types of diffusion** 传播类型.

You must be able to:

- distinguish **relocation diffusion** 迁移传播 from **expansion diffusion** 扩展传播
- distinguish **contagious** 传染扩散, **hierarchical** 等级扩散, and **stimulus** 刺激扩散 diffusion
- give an example of each
- identify the diffusion type from a description

1 Worked examples

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

■ Relocation vs expansion

Relocation diffusion spreads a trait as people physically move and carry it. **Expansion diffusion** spreads a trait outward while it also stays strong at the source.

■ Types of expansion

Contagious: spreads person-to-person through an area (a viral trend). **Hierarchical:** jumps between key nodes/leaders first (fashion from major cities). **Stimulus:** the core idea spreads and is adapted, even if the original form is not.

■ Identifying the type

Ask: did people move (relocation) or did the idea spread outward (expansion)? If expansion, did it spread evenly (contagious), through nodes (hierarchical), or as an adapted idea (stimulus)?

2 Practice

2.1 State the difference between relocation and expansion diffusion. [2]

2.2 Define hierarchical diffusion and give one example. [2]

2.3 Migrants bring their cuisine to a new country, where it becomes popular.

(a) Name the diffusion type. [1]

(b) State how it would differ if the cuisine spread by a viral video instead. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A trend that spreads evenly from person to person across a neighbourhood shows [1]

- **A** relocation diffusion
- **B** contagious diffusion
- **C** hierarchical diffusion
- **D** stimulus diffusion

3.2 A new technology's core idea spreads and is adapted locally, though the exact original is not. This is [1]

- **A** stimulus diffusion
- **B** relocation diffusion
- **C** hierarchical diffusion
- **D** contagious diffusion

3.3 A global brand opens first in the largest cities worldwide, then in smaller towns.

(a) Name this diffusion type. [1]

(b) Explain why it follows this order.

[1]

Solutions

2.1 relocation = a trait spreads as people move and carry it; expansion = it spreads outward while staying strong at the source.

2.2 spread through a hierarchy of nodes/key people first; e.g. a fashion adopted in major cities then smaller towns.

2.3 (a) relocation diffusion. (b) that would be expansion (contagious) diffusion — no one had to move.

3.1 B. even person-to-person spread = contagious diffusion.

3.2 A. the underlying idea spreads and is adapted = stimulus diffusion.

3.3 (a) hierarchical diffusion. (b) it spreads through the most important/connected nodes (big cities) first.