

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 | B |
| C | D |
- 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 | B |
| C | D |
- 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]
