

IMPORTANT GEOGRAPHIC IDEAS

These important ideas may be used at any level, but development of the students' understanding of these is expected at the form levels specified.

1. LOCATION, DISTANCE, AND ACCESSIBILITY

The ideas of location and distance are basic to an understanding of many relationships in geography. They can be combined to provide the higher level concept of accessibility.

	Some ideas	Level
1.1	LOCATION. Location means the position of phenomena in terms of distance and direction. It may be given in absolute terms, for example, latitude and longitude, or in relative terms by reference to the position of other phenomena.	11,12, 13
1.2	DISTANCE. Distance may be measured not only in terms of length, but also in such terms as travel time, transport cost, or rank in a hierarchy.	11, 12, 13
1.3	Location or distance may be an advantage or a constraint	11, 12, 13
1.4	Technological change may alter the effect of location or distance.	11, 12, 13
1.5	Location and distance are perceived by societies and individuals in different ways.	12, 13
1.6	ACCESSIBILITY. Location and distance affect accessibility, which is a measure of the ease of movement of people, objects, and ideas.	11, 12, 13
1.7	A more accessible place may play a more important role in a system	12, 13
1.8	The greater the accessibility of a place or an area, the greater will be its potential for interaction and change.	12, 13

**Reference: *Syllabus for Schools Geography Forms 5 – 7 (1990)*
Learning Media, Ministry of Education, Wellington pp. 22 – 25.**