**Let’s define the 4 notions**

**1. Myths and heroes:**

**A myth can be defined as a story about gods or heroes, it can be a popular belief or a tradition or a false notion**. Some myths may have started as ‘true’ stories but as people re-told them some parts may have been changed by mistake, or to make them more interesting. All cultures have myths and this mythology has been developed over time. Mythology includes the legends of our history, our religions, stories of how the world was created, and our heroes. These stories have great symbolic power, and this may be a major reason why they survive as long as they do, sometimes for thousands of years.

**A hero can be a mythological figure, a person who is admired** for their courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities. It can be the main character in a book or a film or a person with superhuman qualities. It can also be a modern-day hero, a person who has performed a heroic act or simply our own personal hero, our role model, who we look up to.

*Examples can be:*

*– a patriotic or national hero (sportsman, politician, human rights defender…..)*

*– a fictitious hero (superhero or film star)*

*– an icon or role model (fashion, tv, music)*

*– a defender of common values*

*– a politician/king/queen who has achieved international recognition*

*– unknown heroes (war heroes, firemen, rescue workers, charity workers….)*

*– our own personal hero (member of the family who you look up to)*

**2.  Locations and forms of power**

**(also called Places and forms of power or Seats and forms of power)**

**In politics and social science, power is the ability to influence the behaviour of people. In order to live together, members of a community accept rules, regulations, and laws. This helps to create social cohesion but can also lead to conflicts and tensions. Even when authority seems absolute, there are always counter-powers which question it, aim at limiting its excesses and resist it.**

*Examples can be:*

*– the power of the media (reality tv, internet, written press, advertising)*

*– financial power (the power of money)*

*– inequalities between blacks and whites – the fight against oppression and segregation (South Africa, USA)*

*– the American Dream*

*– the Civil Rights movement and political recognition : Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Malcolm X (can also be linked to the notion of Myths and Heroes).*

**3. The idea of Progress**

**The idea of progress can be defined as an improvement, a development or a change – a technical, scientific or social advance which contributes to making the world a better place.**

*Examples can be:*

*– scientific Progress*

*– medical advances, cures for illnesses, cloning, performance enhancing drugs,   genetically modified organisms.*

*– technological Progress : technologies to slow down climate change such as hybrid cars, wind turbines, solar panels, biofuel…..*

*– advances in communication:  the internet, social media, mobile phones, video games : how they have changed our lives and the dangers of these modern ways of communication, robots, automated production.*

*– nuclear Power: for and against*

*– social Progress: changes in the quality of life, how does progress affect our society? Education, employment, equality, family life, women’s rights, human rights, minority rights, the idea of liberty, freedom, democracy*

**4. Spaces and Exchanges**

**This notion deals with the geographical and symbolic areas that all societies occupy and the interactions between men and different societies. Our world is built on the exploration and conquest of new spaces. The different cultural, economic, sociological and language interactions have shaped and characterised our modern-day world.**

*Examples can be:*

*– trade (the basis of all societies)*

*– working conditions (telecommuting, internet)*

*– globalization (the world has become a small village)*

*– school and education (social diversity / knowledge) : comparison of the different educational systems*

*– the Internet / social networks…*

*– the movement of people: Immigration*

*– the movement across borders (Gap Year)*