Chapter 01: The Copernican Revolution

- 1. In Ptolemy's geocentric model, the planet's motion along its deferent is all that is needed to understand retrograde motion.
- Copernicus believed the earth was the center of all celestial motion.
- 3. According to Copernicus, retrograde motion occurs at opposition for the outer planets.
- 4. Galileo's observations of the phases of Venus supported Ptolemy's epicycles.
- 5. Among Galileo's discoveries with his telescope were sunspots.
- 6. Kepler's third law relates the square of the planet's orbital period in years to the cube of its average distance from the Sun in astronomical units.
- 7. Kepler relied heavily on the telescopic observations of Galileo in developing his laws of planetary motion.
- 8. According to Kepler's Laws, the planets move in circular orbits.
- 9. A planet (or comet) will speed up as it approaches the Sun
- 10. According to Kepler's third law, if you know the planet's orbital period, you can find its average distance from the Sun.
- 11. Kepler's third law allows us to find the average distance to a planet from observing its period of rotation on its axis.
- 12. According to Newton's first law an object traveling in a circle does not have a force acting on it.
- 13. According to Newton's second law, if you double the force acting on a body, the acceleration will double.
- 14. Compared to when it was on the surface, a satellite in an orbit about 4 times the earth's radius will experience about 1/16 the force due to gravity.
- 15. According to Newton's third law, when the Voyager probes passed Jupiter in 1979, they exerted exactly the same force on Jupiter as the giant planet did on them.
- 16. In Ptolemy's geocentric model, retrograde motion occurs when the planet is closest to us, on the inside portion of the
 - A) deferent.
 - B) equant.
 - C) ellipse.
 - D) ecliptic.
 - E) epicycle.

- 17. In Ptolemy's geocentric model, the normal eastward motion of the planets was along
 - A) the equant.
 - B) a deferent.
 - C) an epicycle.
 - D) a retrograde loop.
 - E) an ellipse.
- 18. Copernicus' Heliocentric theory explains that
 - A) All planets lie between the Sun and Earth.
 - B) Venus retrogrades when she overtakes us at inferior conjunction.
 - C) The Sun lies at one focus of an ellipse.
 - D) Mars will retrograde when it reaches a certain position on its epicycle.
 - E) Planetary orbits are elliptical in shape.
- 19. According to Copernicus, retrograde motion for Venus must occur around
 - A) greatest elongation, when the planet is farthest from the Sun.
 - B) quadrature, when the planet is 90 degrees away from the Sun.
 - C) opposition, when the planet lies opposite the Sun in the sky.
 - D) superior conjunction, when the planet is on the far side of the Sun.
 - E) interior conjunction, when it passes between us and the Sun.
- 20. According to Copernicus, the retrograde motion for Mars must occur
 - A) at opposition, when the earth overtakes Mars and passes between Mars and the Sun.
 - B) at superior conjunction, when Mars lies on the far side of the Sun.
 - C) at greatest elongation, when Mars can get up to 47 degrees from the Sun.
 - D) at inferior conjunction, when Mars laps the earth and passes between us and the Sun.
 - E) at quadrature, when Mars lies exactly 90 degrees east or west of the Sun.
- 21. A fatal flaw with Ptolemy's model is its inability to predict the observed phases of
 - A) the Moon in its monthly cycle.
 - B) Mercury and Venus.
 - C) Mars and Jupiter.
 - D) the Sun during an eclipse.
 - E) Jupiter and Saturn.
- 22. Which of these was NOT a telescopic discovery of Galileo?
 - A) the rings of Saturn
 - B) sunspots and the rotation of the Sun
 - C) the craters and mare of the Moon
 - D) the phases of Venus
 - E) the four largest moons of Jupiter

- 23. Which of these observations of Galileo refuted Ptolemy's epicycles?
 - A) the visibility of many more stars with the telescope
 - B) the complete cycle of Venus' phases
 - C) the revolution of Jupiter's moons around it
 - D) the craters on the Moon
 - E) the rotation of sunspots across the sun's surface
- 24. Galileo found the rotation period of the Sun was approximately
 - A) a day.
 - B) a week.
 - C) a month.
 - D) a year.
 - E) three months.
- 25. Tycho Brahe's contribution to Kelpler's Laws of Planetary Motion were
 - A) his observations of Jupiter's moons.
 - B) a mathematical explanation of epicycles.
 - C) a precise lunar calendar.
 - D) the correct explanation of lunar phases.
 - E) his detailed and accurate observations of the planet's position.
- 26. Kepler's first law worked, where Copernicus' original heliocentric model failed, because Kepler described the orbits as
 - A) being on equants instead of epicycles.
 - B) complex, with epicycles to account for retrograde motions.
 - C) much larger than Copernicus had envisioned.
 - D) around the Sun, not the earth.
 - E) elliptical, not circular.
- 27. When a planet's orbit takes it closest to the Sun, it's called
 - A) aphelion
 - B) crossing the ecliptic.
 - C) perihelion
 - D) vernal equinox
 - E) None of these; a planet's distance from the Sun never changes.
- 28. A planet whose distance from the Sun is 3 A.U. would have an orbital period of how many Earth-years?
- 29. The force of gravity varies with the
 - A) inverse square of the distance separating the two bodies.
 - B) inverse of the distance separating the two bodies.
 - C) product of the two masses.
 - D) Both A and B are correct.
 - E) Both A and C are correct.
- 30. A circular orbit would have an eccentricity of
 - A) between 0.5 and 1.
 - B) 0.
 - C) between 0 and 0.5.
 - D) exactly 1.0.
 - E) infinity.

- 31. How much stronger is the gravitational pull of the Sun on Earth, at 1 AU, than it is on Saturn at 10 AU?
 - A) 5X
 - B) 10X
 - C) 25X
 - D) 100X
 - E) 250X
- 32. If the distance between two asteroids is doubled, the gravitational force they exert on each other will
 - A) be four times greater.
 - B) be half as great.
 - C) also be doubled.
 - D) will be 1/16 as great.
 - E) be one fourth as great.