Sample Test Questions: Chaisson Chapter 07

- 1. Our most detailed knowledge of the jovian planets comes from
 - A) ground based visual telescopes.
 - B) manned missions.
 - C) spacecraft exploration.
 - D) the Hubble Space telescope.
 - E) ground based radio telescopes.
- 2. The spacecraft Cassini went into orbit around
 - A) Jupiter.
 - B) Pluto.
 - C) Neptune.
 - D) Uranus.
 - E) Saturn.
- 3. The Galileo mission put a spacecraft into orbit around Jupiter. Which statement is true?
 - A) A saltwater ocean was discovered on Jupiter.
 - B) A probe was released which soft landed on lo.
 - C) The spacecraft used a gravity assist from both Venus and Earth.
 - D) Intense magnetic fields were discovered in the asteroid belt.
 - E) The spacecraft crashed into the moon Europa.
- 4. One of the discoveries made by the Voyager probes at Jupiter was
 - A) that the Great Red Spot is uniform and featureless.
 - B) the absence of a magnetic field around the giant planet.
 - C) Io has a featureless surface that never changes.
 - D) a thin ring of dust around the equator.
 - E) each of the four large moons produces a strong magnetic field.
- 5. Which three played a role in the finding of Neptune?
 - A) Bode, Herschel, and Fraunhofer
 - B) Newton, Einstein, and Tombaugh
 - C) Shapley, Hubble, and Whipple
 - D) Herschel, Hubble, and Einstein
 - E) Adams, Leverrier, and Galle
- 6. Small deviations in a planet's orbital motion
 - A) imply the nearby presence of a massive body.
 - B) show the planet's orbit isn't stable.
 - C) indicate the presence of an extensive atmosphere.
 - D) indicate the presence of a powerful magnetic field.
 - E) show we don't fully understand gravitational forces yet.
- 7. Adams and Leverrier predicted the position of Neptune, based on its perturbations of
 - A) Jupiter.
 - B) the Sun.
 - C) Uranus
 - D) Pluto
 - E) Saturn's rings.

- 8. Uranus was discovered
 - A) thousands of years ago.
 - B) with a radio telescope.
 - C) after examining perturbations in Neptune's orbit.
 - D) less than 250 years ago.
 - E) by Galileo
- 9. At which planet can the pole remain in darkness for 42 years, then have 42 years of constant daylight?
 - A) Uranus
 - B) Jupiter
 - C) Saturn
 - D) Neptune
 - E) Pluto
- 10. In terms of axial tilt, which of the jovians shows us the largest inclination?
 - A) Pluto
 - B) Jupiter
 - C) Uranus
 - D) Saturn
 - E) Neptune
- 11. If you found a bathtub big enough to hold Saturn, then
 - A) Saturn would sink like a rock, due to its denser core.
 - B) Saturn could float.
 - C) Saturn would explode upon contact with water.
 - D) it would precipitate helium into the tub.
 - E) Saturn would drown, because it does not know how to swim.
- 12. The planet whose pole was facing the Sun when Voyager 2 approached in 1986 was
 - A) Uranus.
 - B) Saturn.
 - C) Jupiter.
 - D) Pluto.
 - E) Neptune.
- 13. Jupiter and the other jovian planets are noticeably oblate because
 - A) they are fluid bodies that are spinning rapidly.
 - B) their powerful gravity acts stronger on the closer poles than the distant equator.
 - C) they are tidally distorted by the pulls for their satellite systems.
 - D) they all have strong magnetic fields that deform their shape.
 - E) All of the above are correct.
- 14. What would Jupiter have needed to be a star?
 - A) a slower spin, similar to the Sun's 25 days, instead of its present 10 hours
 - B) a different chemical composition
 - C) more uranium to ignite nuclear fission chain reactions in its core
 - D) a larger satellite system.
 - E) enough more mass to make the planet hotter.

- 15. Which of these is true about the seasons of Uranus?
 - A) With a tilt of 29 degrees, they are not that different from our solstices and equinoxes.
 - At the Uranian pole the Sun sets every 16 B) hours during the summer and winter.
 - C) Its strange tilt produces extreme seasonal variations, especially at the poles.
 - D) At the Uranian equator, the Sun would pass overhead every sixteen hours.
 - E) There are nor season at the poles.
- 16. The reason the jovian planets lost very little of their original atmosphere is due to their
 - A) rapid rotation.
 - B) ring systems.
 - C) strong magnetic fields.
 - D) large mass.
 - E) many moons.
- 17. Compared to Saturn, Jupiter is about
 - A) three times more massive and denser.
 - B) half as massive and more dense.
 - C) half as dense, but the same mass since it is larger.
 - D) twice the diameter, but less dense.
 - E) 100 times more massive.
- 18. Studying the magnetospheres of the jovians has allowed us to measure their
 - A) gravity.
 - B) orbital period.
 - C) ring system diameters.
 - D) rotation rates.
 - E) orbital radius.
- 19. Essentially, the Great Red Spot is
 - A) a large cyclonic storm (hurrican.
 - B) Neptune's largest atmospheric feature.
 - C) traveling north and south across jupiter's face.
 - D) always located within 10 degrees of Jupiter's north pole.
 - E) composed primarily of iron oxide.
- 20. Alternating zones of rising and sinking gas in Jupiter's atmosphere
 - A) circle the planet from pole to pole.
 - B) create light and dark bands.
 - C) cause Jupiter's magnetic field to ripple.
 - D) produced the ring system discovered by Vovager.
 - E) generate their own magnetic fields.
- 21. The only probe into the atmospheres of any jovian planet was launched by
 - A) Galileo into Jupiter's equatorial zone.
 - B) Huygens into Saturn's equatorial belt.
 - C) Pathfinder into Mars' atmosphere.
 - D) Cassini into Saturn's clouds.
 - E) Voyager 2 into Titan's atmosphere.

- 22. The two outer jovians appear bluish in color because
 - dust motes in their atmospheres scatter blue A) well, just as in our own blue sky.
 - B) from their distance, the Sun would appear hotter and bluer than from Earth.
 - C) hydrogen and helium are both blue in large concentrations.
 - D) ammonia absorbs blue light well.
 - E) methane gas in their atmospheres absorbs red light well.
- 23. Which common gas is less abundant in the top of Saturn's atmosphere, compared to what we
- observe at Jupiter?
 - A) hydrogen
 - B) methane
 - C) helium
 - D) nitrogen
 - E) argon
- 24. Why does Saturn radiate even more excess heat than Jupiter?
 - A) Saturn's thick clouds give it a stronger greenhouse effect.
 - Saturn's atmosphere contains much B) methane, which is very flammable.
 - C) Helium rain falling inward generates heat as it descends.
 - D) Only Saturn is still radiating heat left over from its formation.
 - E) Saturn is more massive than Jupiter, so its gravitational compression is stronger.
- 25. Which planet had the Great Dark Spot in 1989, but had lost it by 1995?

 - A) Jupiter
 - Pluto B)
 - C) Uranus
 - D) Neptune
 - E) Saturn
- 26. Of the Jovian planets, which generates the least internal heat?
 - A) Jupiter
 - B) Neptune
 - C) Uranus
 - D) Pluto
 - E) Saturn
- 27. The magnetic field tilts of which two bodies are the most unusual?
 - A) Saturn and Pluto
 - B) Uranus and Neptune
 - C) Mars and Saturn
 - D) Jupiter and Saturn
 - E) Mercury and Earth

- 28. What is the source of Jupiter's intense radio waves and magnetism?
 - A) liquid metallic hydrogen swirling in the rapidly spinning mantle
 - B) the auroral displays in the polar regions, just like with the earth
 - C) the ionized sulfur ejected into a torous around Jupiter by Io
 - D) charged particles trapped in Jupiter's solid iron core similar to Earth
 - E) a liquid iron and nickel outer core, just like the earth's magnetic field
- 29. Jupiter gives back into space twice the energy it gets from the distant Sun. Where is this energy
 - A) coming from, for the most part?
 - B) the radioactive decay of U-238 in its ironrich core, just as with the earth
 - C) the slow escape of gravitational energy left from its formation
 - D) the combined tidal stress of all four large Galilean moons
 - E) the impact energy of comets like SL-9
 - F) helium rain descending into its mantle and core
- 30. What is true of Jupiter's magnetosphere?
 - A) It does not trap protons and electrons, as Earth's Van Allen belts do.
 - B) It is most extensive on the sunward side of the planet.
 - C) It has a tail that extends at least to Saturn's orbit.
 - D) Although its surface field is greater, since the planet is larger the total field is actually weaker than Earth's.
 - E) It is only slightly stronger than Saturn's.
- 31. What is thought to lie at the center of Jupiter?
 - A) a hot sea of liquid metallic hydrogen
 - B) a solid core of crystalline helium
 - C) a massive core of rocky materials with some iron mixed in
 - D) a fusion core like the Sun's, with hydrogen being turned into helium
 - E) gaseous hydrogen and helium, for Jupiter is not differentiated like Earth
- 32. Which two jovians have magnetic field tilts that are not along their rotation poles?
 - A) Jupiter and Saturn
 - B) Saturn and Neptune
 - C) Jupiter and Uranus
 - D) Uranus and Neptune
 - E) All jovians have magnetic fields close to their rotational axes.