## Sample Exam Questions: Chaisson Chapter 08

- 1. Which element is critical to the formation of the volcanic surface of Io?
  - A) iron
  - B) carbon
  - C) silicon
  - D) phosphorus
  - E) sulfur
- 2. What is thought to cause lo's volcanism?
  - A) Jupiter's gravity
  - B) impact energy left over from SL-9
  - C) radioactive decay of Uranium in its dense core
  - D) Jupiter's magnetosphere
  - E) tidal stresses from both Jupiter and Europa
- 3. Which of the Galilean moons is densest and most geologically active?
  - A) Callisto
  - B) lo
  - C) Europa
  - D) Ganymede
  - E) Titan
- 4. Which are the four Galilean moons of Jupiter?
  - A) Io, Titan, Triton, and Charon
  - B) Io, Ganymede, Callisto, and Titan
  - C) Europa, Titan, Ganymede, and Callisto
  - D) Europa, Ganymede, Io, and Triton
  - E) Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto
- 5. The surface of Europa is most like the earth's A) tundra.
  - B) Arctic Ocean.
  - C) Himalayan peaks.
  - D) South Pole.
  - E) deserts.
- 6. The weak magnetic fields around Europa and Ganymede were found during flybys of
  - A) Cassini.
  - B) Voyager 1.
  - C) Galileo.
  - D) Pioneer 10.
  - E) Stardust.
- 7. In size and density, both Io and Europa resemble A) Mercury.
  - B) Pluto.
  - C) Mars.
  - D) our Moon.
  - E) Charon.
- 8. The mare on Ganymede were formed by
  - A) basalt erupting onto the surface.
  - B) sulfur spewed from volcanoes.
  - C) water erupting and spreading over the surface.
  - D) plate tectonics.
  - E) gravitational interactions with Callisto and Europa.

- 9. In terms of dark, smoother mare and cratered highlands, which Jovian moon most resembles the near side of our own?
  - A) Europa
  - B) Triton
  - C) lo
  - D) Ganymede
  - E) Titan
- 10. Of the Jovian satellites, which shows the oldest, most cratered surface?
  - A) Triton
  - B) Callisto
  - C) Miranda
  - D) Enceladus
  - E) Ganymede
- 11. The largest moon in the solar system, bigger but not as massive as Mercury, is
  - A) Europa.
  - B) Triton.
  - C) Titan.
  - D) Ganymede.
  - E) Callisto.
- 12. A moon with a smooth, uncratered surface would imply
  - A) the surface is completely liquid.
  - B) a strong magnetic field surrounds the moon.
  - C) the surface is very young.
  - D) the moon lies within the planet's Roche Limit.
  - E) meteorites have never struck the moon.
- 13. Which of these moons has the densest atmosphere?
  - A) lo
  - B) Triton
  - C) Callisto
  - D) Titan
  - E) Europa
- 14. Which of these moons are most interesting to exobiologists?
  - A) Io and Enceladus
  - B) Europa and Miranda
  - C) Europa and Titan
  - D) Titan and Triton
  - E) Triton and Charon
- 15. At Titan, the oceans are made of liquid
  - A) carbon dioxide.
  - B) metallic hydrogen.
  - C) ethane.
  - D) nitrogen.
  - E) water.
- 16. The Huygens probe of the ESA made a successful landing on
  - A) Titan.
  - B) Saturn.
  - C) Triton.
  - D) Europa.
  - E) Mars.

- 17. The atmosphere of Titan is composed mainly of
  - A) hydrogen and helium.
  - B) nitrogen.
  - C) hydrogen sulfide.
  - D) carbon dioxide.
  - E) methane.
- 18. The grooves and ridges on Ganymede are thought to
  - A) be due to the moon's rapid rotation.
  - B) have formed within the last thousand years.C) have grown considerably larger since the
  - Voyager spacecraft discovered them. D) be part of an ongoing volcanic process.
  - E) be due to crustal tectonics motion (plate tectonics)
- 19. What is true of Titan's atmosphere?
  - A) It has produced a runaway greenhouse effect.
  - B) It was discovered by the Voyager 1 spacecraft.
  - C) It is similar to Earth's in composition and density.
  - D) It is oxygen rich.
  - E) It is primarily hydrogen.
- 20. The erupting geysers of nitrogen gas on Triton
  - A) are increasing the moon's rotation rate.
  - B) produced the large liquid oceans.
  - C) produced the frozen nitrogen surface.
  - D) are caused by a not yet determined internal energy source.
  - E) can be viewed by the Hubble Space Telescope.
- 21. Voyager 1 was unable to image Titan's surface because
  - A) the moon was in shadow during the mission.
  - B) of Titan's high reflectivity.
  - C) the cameras were damaged by Saturn's magnetic field.
  - D) volcanic activity spewed sulfur clouds, obscuring the surface.
  - E) of "smog" in Titan's atmosphere.
- 22. The brightest and probably youngest surface of any moon of Saturn belongs to
  - A) Mimas.
  - B) Tethys.
  - C) Titan.
  - D) Enceladus.
  - E) lapetus.
- 23. Which Jovian moon shows the most diverse terrain, suggesting a violent impact broke it into many pieces, some of which reformed it as a jumbled puzzle?
  - A) Enceladus
  - B) Miranda
  - C) Triton
  - D) lo
  - E) Ganymede

- 24. What statistic below has changed the most in the last decade?
  - A) the number of known Jovian moons
  - B) the masses of the Galilean moons
  - C) the densities of the larger moons
  - D) the compositions of moons of Uranus
  - E) the rotational period of the Jovian moons
- 25. Which moon of Saturn shows the largest impact crater, relative to its size?
  - A) Mimas
  - B) Callisto
  - C) Miranda
  - D) Enceladus
  - E) Titan
- 26. For a moon the same density as its planet, the Roche limit lies at \_\_\_\_\_ times the radius of its planet.
  - A) 1.4
  - B) 2.5
  - C) 3.6
  - D) 5.2
  - E) 7
- 27. Why are the rings of Saturn so bright?
  - A) Light reflected off of gigantic Titan reinforces the sunlight.
  - B) They are made of metallic iron, never rusted by exposure to oxygen.
  - C) They are made of young, fresh water ice.
  - D) They are made of glassy beads expelled by the volcanoes of Enceladus.
  - E) They are made of frozen metallic hydrogen.
- 28. Which statement about Jupiter's rings is true?
  - A) They lie inside Jupiter's Roche Limit.
  - B) They are made, in part, of material ejected by Europa's volcanoes.
  - C) They are larger than Saturn's, but darker.
  - D) They are dark because their ices are dirtier than Saturn's.
  - E) They were discovered by Galileo at the same time he discovered the moons.
- 29. When Saturn is at Equinox, its rings will
  - A) double the planet's brightness.
  - B) appear face-on to the earth.
  - C) lie perpendicular to the plane of the ecliptic.
  - D) lie in the plane of the ecliptic.
  - E) contract closer to the planet's surface.
- 30. What best explains the darkness of the rings beyond Saturn's?
  - A) Water ice reflects light poorly at the low temperatures beyond Saturn.
  - B) They are pieces of captured comets.
  - C) Rocky debris doesn't reflect as well as water ice.
  - D) old, sooty debris and radiation darkening
  - E) The sunlight is much fainter out there.

- 31. The Cassini Division is a gap in Saturn's rings caused by
  - A) Saturn's excess heat.
  - B) two shepherding moons.
  - C) the icy ring particles melting.
  - D) gravitational interaction with Mimas.
  - E) Saturn's magnetic field.
- 32. Inside the Roche Limit
  - A) ring systems cannot exists.
  - B) large moons are torn apart.
  - C) there is a gap in a planet's magnetic field.
  - D) is where large moons form.
  - E) hydrogen can only exist in its liquid metallic form.
- 33. If Saturn takes about 30 years to orbit the Sun, and its rings were seen edge-on in 1995, when will they appear most open at solstice?
  - A) 1998
  - B) 2002
  - C) 2005
  - D) 2007
  - E) 2010
- 34. If Uranus takes 84 years to orbit the Sun, and Voyager 2 found its rings wide open at solstice in 1989, when will they appear edge on, as seen from Earth?
  - A) 1995
  - B) 2003
  - C) 2010
  - D) 2025
  - E) They can never appear edge on, due to Uranus' 98 degree axial tilt.
- 35. Which was not a Voyager discovery about the rings of Saturn?
  - A) They are made of tens of thousands of narrow ringlets.
  - B) The F ring particles are herded by two shepherd moons.
  - C) There are hundreds of smaller moons imbedded, creating the gaps.
  - D) The E ring may have been made by volcanic eruptions from Enceladus.
  - E) They have dark spokes that defy gravity.
- 36. Which of the following rings of Saturn lies closest to the planet?
  - A) the A ring
  - B) the B ring
  - C) the C ring
  - D) the E ring
  - E) the F ring
- 37. Which moon orbits a planet only twice as big as it is?
  - A) Triton
  - B) Charon
  - C) Miranda
  - D) Mimas
  - E) our Moon

- 38. Pluto's density is most similar to
  - A) Saturn, but not Jupiter, Uranus, or Neptune.
  - B) moons of the jovian planets.
  - C) the jovian planets.
  - D) the terrestrial planets.
  - E) Mercury, but nor Venus, Earth, or Mars.
- 39. Pluto was discovered in
  - A) ancient times.
  - B) 1789.
  - C) 1859.
  - D) 1930.
  - E) 1992.
- 40. The two names most associated with the discovery of Pluto are
  - A) Kuiper and Whipple.
  - B) Herschel and Bode.
  - C) Adams and Leverrier.
  - D) Lowell and Tombaugh.
  - E) Shoemaker and Levy.
- 41. Charon's orbit
  - A) has not been determined yet.
  - B) lies exactly in Pluto's orbital plane.
  - C) is perpendicular to Pluto's equator.
  - D) is highly inclined to Pluto's orbital plane.
  - E) is retrograde.
- 42. Pluto is most similar to
  - A) Europa.
  - B) Miranda.
  - C) Mercury.
  - D) our Moon.
  - E) Triton.
- 43. What is so unusual about Pluto's orbit?
  - A) It has an unexpectedly short orbital period.
  - B) It's orbital period is exactly twice that of Neptune's.
  - C) It is the most inclined to the ecliptic of the 9 planets.
  - D) It has the lowest eccentricity of any planet's orbit.
  - E) It lies exactly on the ecliptic.