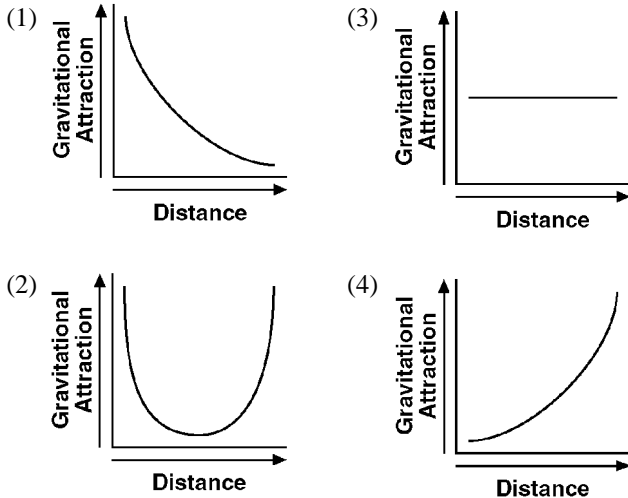


1. The apparent rising and setting of the Sun, as viewed from Earth, is caused by
- (1) Earth's rotation (3) the Sun's rotation
 (2) Earth's revolution (4) the Sun's revolution

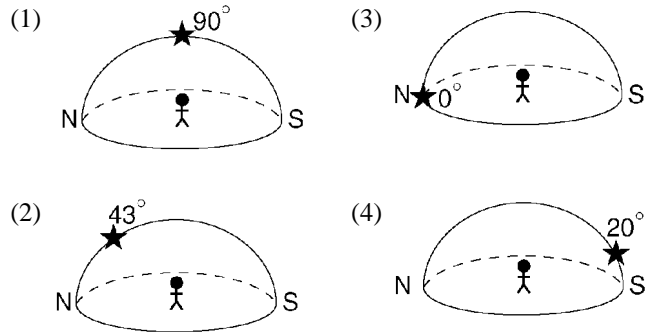
2. In which direction on the horizon does the Sun appear to rise on July 4 in New York State?
- (1) due north (3) north of due east
 (2) due south (4) south of due east

3. Which graph best represents the change in gravitational attraction between the Sun and a comet as the distance between them increases?



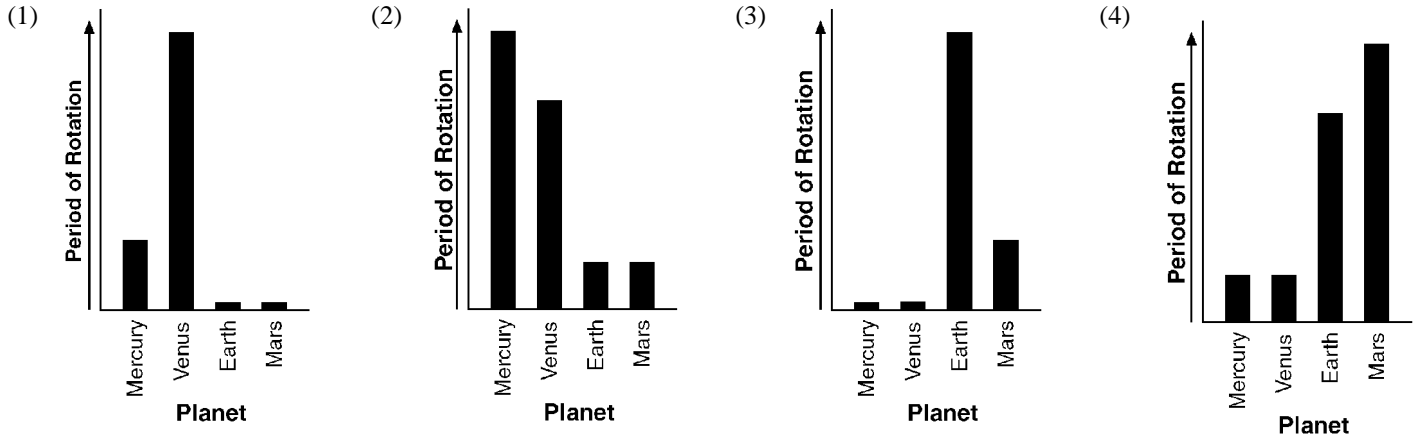
4. The best evidence that Earth spins on its axis is provided by
- (1) variations in atmospheric density
 (2) apparent shifts in the swing of a Foucault pendulum
 (3) changes in the position of sunspots on the Sun
 (4) eclipses of the Moon
5. A major belt of asteroids is located between Mars and Jupiter. What is the approximate average distance between the Sun and this major asteroid belt?
- (1) 110 million kilometers (3) 390 million kilometers
 (2) 220 million kilometers (4) 850 million kilometers
6. A cycle of Moon phases can be seen from Earth because the
- (1) Moon's distance from Earth changes at a predictable rate
 (2) Moon's axis is tilted
 (3) Moon spins on its axis
 (4) Moon revolves around Earth
7. A high air-pressure, dry-climate belt is located at which Earth latitude?
- (1) 0° (3) 30° N
 (2) 15° N (4) 60° N

8. Which diagram represents the approximate altitude of *Polaris* as seen by an observer located Syracuse, New York?

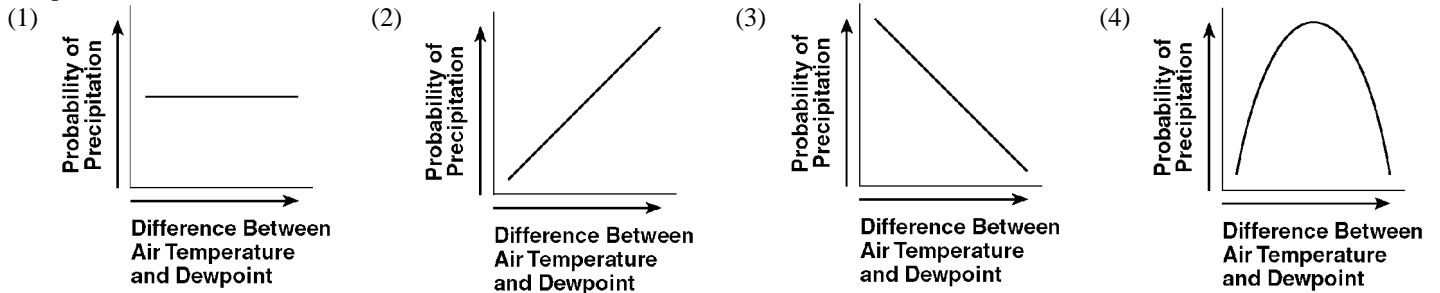


9. Compared to Earth's crust, Earth's core is believed to be
- (1) less dense, cooler, and composed of more iron
 (2) less dense, hotter, and composed of less iron
 (3) more dense, hotter, and composed of more iron
 (4) more dense, cooler, and composed of less iron
10. An environmental scientist needs to prepare a report on the potential effects that a proposed surface mine in New York State will have on the watershed where the mine will be located. In which reference materials will the scientist find the most useful data with which to determine the watershed's boundaries?
- (1) topographic maps (3) tectonic plate maps
 (2) geologic time scales (4) planetary wind maps
11. Which two kinds of adjoining bedrock would most likely have a zone of contact metamorphism between them?
- (1) shale and conglomerate (3) limestone and sandstone
 (2) shale and sandstone (4) limestone and granite
12. The Canaries Current along the west coast of Africa and the Peru Current along the west coast of South America are both
- (1) warm currents that flow away from the Equator
 (2) warm currents that flow toward the Equator
 (3) cool currents that flow away from the Equator
 (4) cool currents that flow toward the Equator
13. Which two gases in Earth's atmosphere are believed by scientists to be greenhouse gases that are major contributors to global warming?
- (1) carbon dioxide and methane
 (2) oxygen and nitrogen
 (3) hydrogen and helium
 (4) ozone and chlorine
14. During which geologic time period did the earliest reptiles and great coal-forming forests exist?
- (1) Devonian (3) Mississippian
 (2) Quaternary (4) Pennsylvanian

15. Which graph best represents the relative periods of rotation of Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars?



16. Which graph best shows the relationship between the probability of precipitation and the difference between air temperature and dewpoint?



17. The average temperature at Earth's North Pole is colder than the average temperature at the Equator because the Equator

- (1) receives less ultraviolet radiation
- (2) receives more intense insolation
- (3) has more cloud cover
- (4) has a thicker atmosphere

18. On a certain day, the isobars on a weather map are very close together over eastern New York State. To make the people of this area aware of possible risk to life and property in this situation, the National Weather Service should issue

- (1) a dense-fog warning
- (2) a high-wind advisory
- (3) a heat-index warning
- (4) an air-pollution advisory

19. What is the dewpoint temperature when the dry-bulb temperature is 16°C and the wet-bulb temperature is 11°C?

- (1) 5°C
- (2) 7°C
- (3) 9°C
- (4) -17°C

20. During which phase change of water is the most energy released into the environment?

- (1) water freezing
- (2) ice melting
- (3) water evaporating
- (4) water vapor condensing

21. A strong west wind steadily blew over Lake Ontario picking up moisture. As this moist air flowed over the Tug Hill Plateau, the plateau received a 36-inch snowfall. This snow fell from clouds that formed when rising air was

- (1) cooled by expansion, causing water vapor to condense
- (2) cooled by compression, causing water vapor to condense
- (3) warmed by expansion, causing water vapor to evaporate
- (4) warmed by compression, causing water vapor to evaporate

22. During a rainfall, surface runoff will probably be greatest in an area that has a

- (1) steep slope and a clay-covered surface
- (2) steep slope and a gravel-covered surface
- (3) gentle slope and a grass-covered surface
- (4) gentle slope and a tree-covered surface

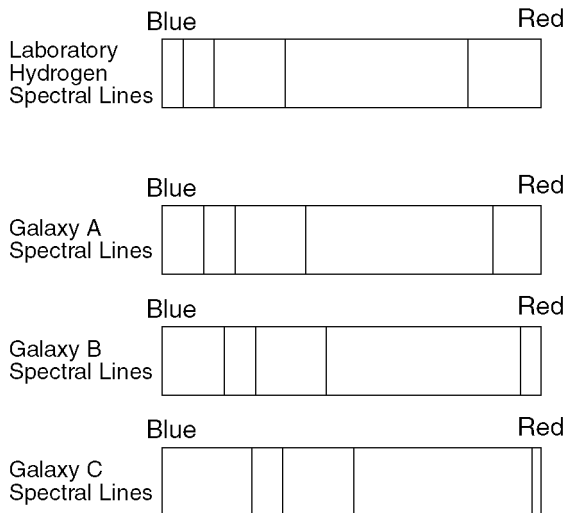
23. Earth's troposphere, hydrosphere, and lithosphere contain relatively large amounts of which element?

- (1) iron
- (2) oxygen
- (3) hydrogen
- (4) potassium

24. Which river is a tributary branch of the Hudson River?

- (1) Delaware River
- (2) Susquehanna River
- (3) Mohawk River
- (4) Genesee River

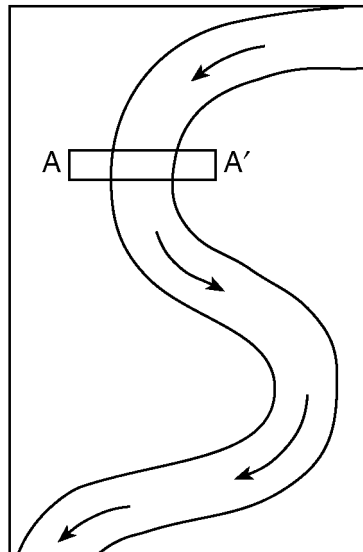
25. In the diagram below, the spectral lines of hydrogen gas from three galaxies, A, B, and C, are compared to the spectral lines of hydrogen gas observed in a laboratory.



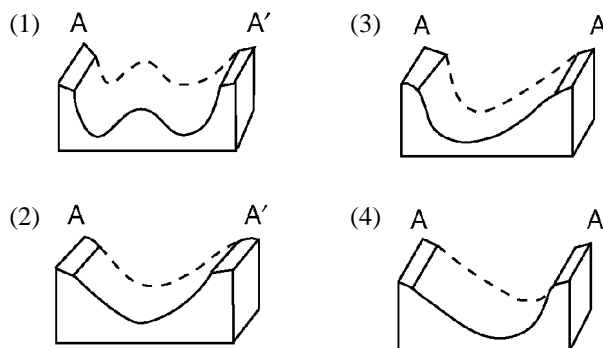
What is the best inference that can be made concerning the movement of galaxies A, B, and C?

- (1) Galaxy A is moving away from Earth, but galaxies B and C are moving toward Earth.
 - (2) Galaxy B is moving away from Earth, but galaxies A and C are moving toward Earth.
 - (3) Galaxies A, B, and C are all moving toward Earth.
 - (4) Galaxies A, B, and C are all moving away from Earth.
26. The long, sandy islands along the south shore of Long Island are composed mostly of sand and rounded pebbles arranged in sorted layers. The agent of erosion that most likely shaped and sorted the sand and pebbles while transporting them to their island location was
- (1) glaciers
 - (2) landslides
 - (3) wind
 - (4) ocean waves
27. What are the largest particles that a stream can transport when its velocity is 200 centimeters per second?
- (1) silt
 - (2) sand
 - (3) pebbles
 - (4) cobbles
28. Which common rock is formed from the solidification of molten material?
- (1) rock gypsum
 - (2) slate
 - (3) rhyolite
 - (4) coal
29. Rocks can be classified as sedimentary, igneous, or metamorphic based primarily upon differences in their
- (1) color
 - (2) density
 - (3) origin
 - (4) age
30. Buffalo, New York, and Plattsburgh, New York, are both located in landscape regions called
- (1) mountains
 - (2) highlands
 - (3) plateaus
 - (4) lowlands

31. The map below shows a meandering river. A–A' is the location of a cross section. The arrows show the direction of the riverflow.



Which cross section best represents the shape of the river bottom at A–A'?



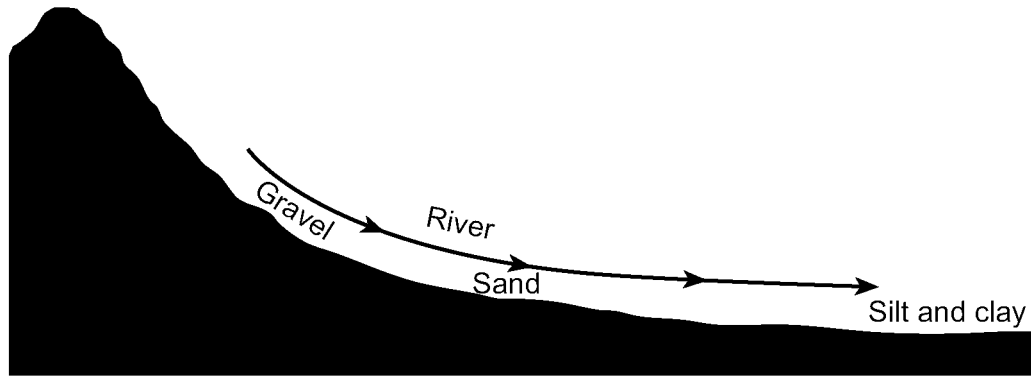
32. The diagram below shows how a sample of the mineral mica breaks when hit with a rock hammer.



This mineral breaks in smooth, flat surfaces because it

- (1) is very hard
- (2) is very dense
- (3) contains large amounts of iron
- (4) has a regular arrangement of atoms

33. The cross section below illustrates the general sorting of sediment by a river as it flows from a mountain to a plain.

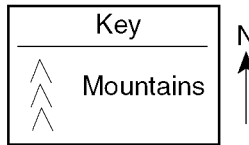
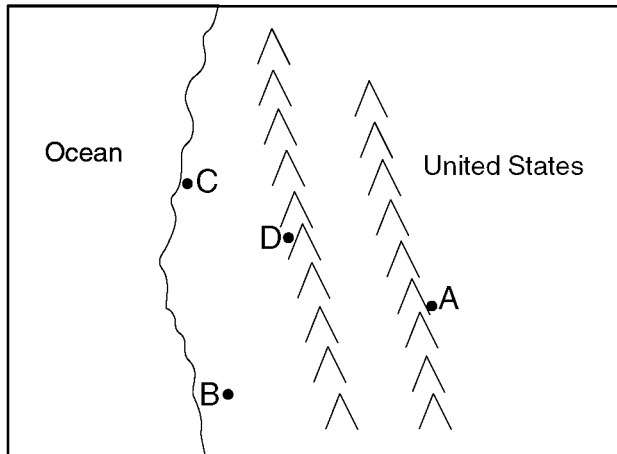


(Not drawn to scale)

Which factor most likely caused the sediment to be sorted in the pattern shown?

- (1) velocity of the river water
- (2) hardness of the surface bedrock
- (3) mineral composition of the sediment
- (4) temperature of the water

34. The map below shows the location of four cities, *A*, *B*, *C*, and *D*, in the western United States where prevailing winds are from the southwest.



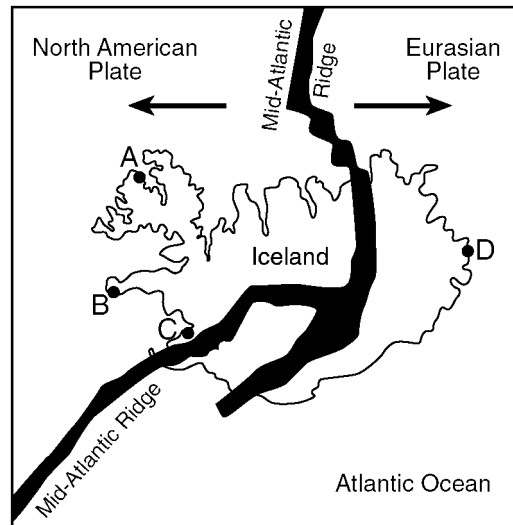
Which city most likely receives the *least* amount of average yearly precipitation?

- (1) *A*
- (2) *B*
- (3) *C*
- (4) *D*

35. A student incorrectly measured the volume of a mineral sample as 63 cubic centimeters. The actual volume was 72 cubic centimeters. What was the student's approximate percent deviation (percentage of error)?

- (1) 9.0%
- (2) 12.5%
- (3) 14.2%
- (4) 15.3%

Base your answers to questions 36 and 37 on the map below of Iceland, a country located on the Mid-Atlantic Ridge. Four locations are represented by the letters *A* through *D*.



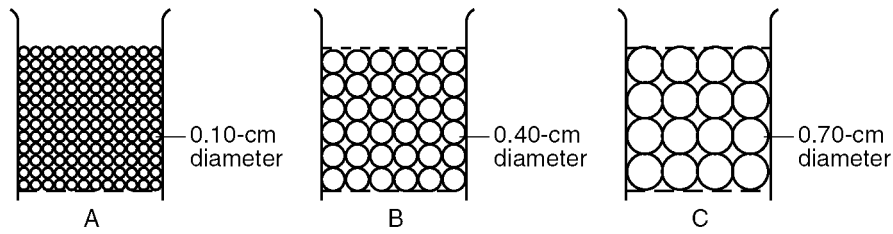
36. The fine-grained texture of most of the igneous rock formed on the surface of Iceland is due to

- (1) rapid cooling of the molten rock
- (2) high density of the molten rock
- (3) numerous faults in the island's bedrock
- (4) high pressure under the island

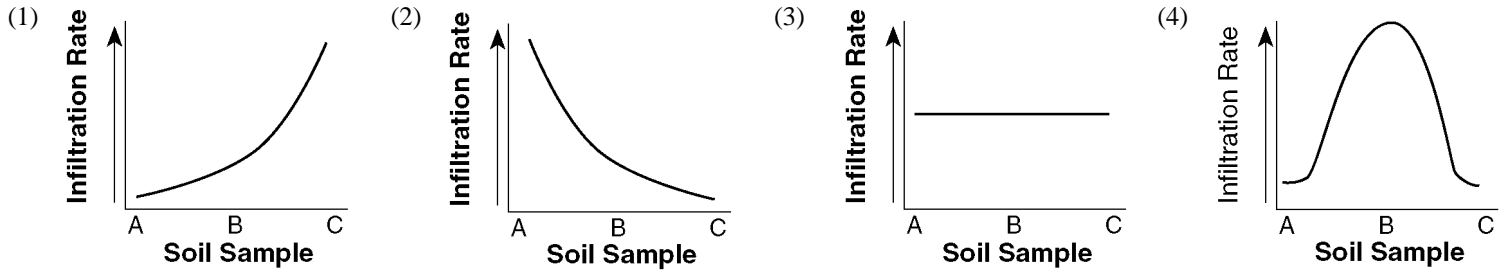
37. The youngest bedrock is most likely found at which location?

- (1) *A*
- (2) *B*
- (3) *C*
- (4) *D*

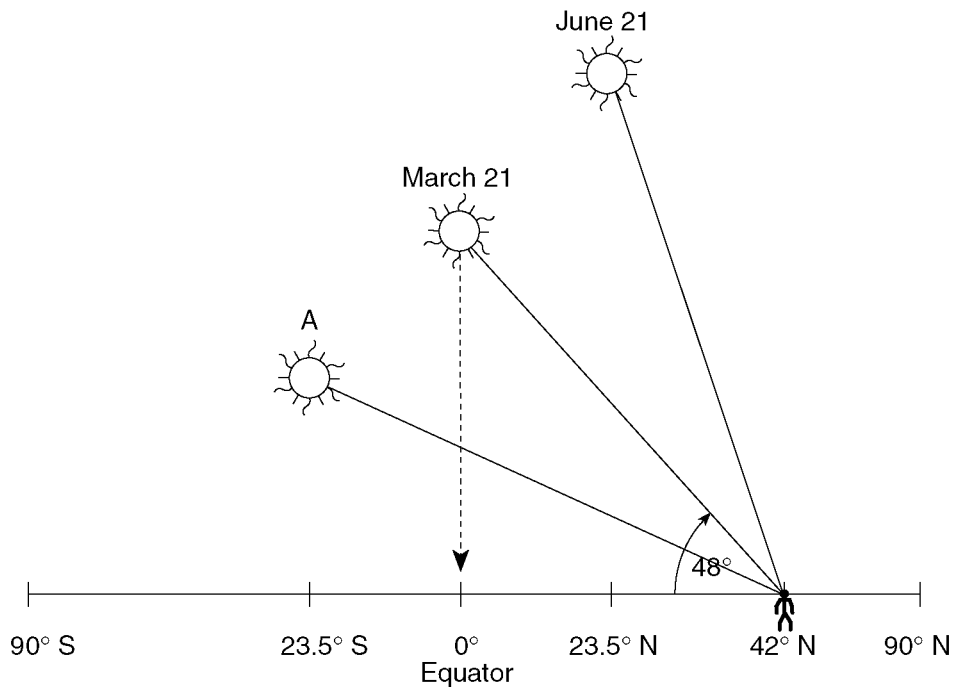
38. The diagrams below show the relative sizes of particles from soil samples A, B, and C. Equal volumes of each soil sample were placed in separate containers. Each container has a screen at the bottom. Water was poured through each sample to determine the infiltration rate.



Which graph best shows how the infiltration rates of the three soil samples would compare?



Base your answers to questions 39 through 41 on the diagram below, which represents the position of the Sun with respect to Earth's surface at solar noon on certain dates. The latitudes of six locations on the same line of longitude are shown. The observer is located at 42° N in New York State. The date for the Sun at position A has been deliberately left blank.



39. At which New York State location could the observer be located?

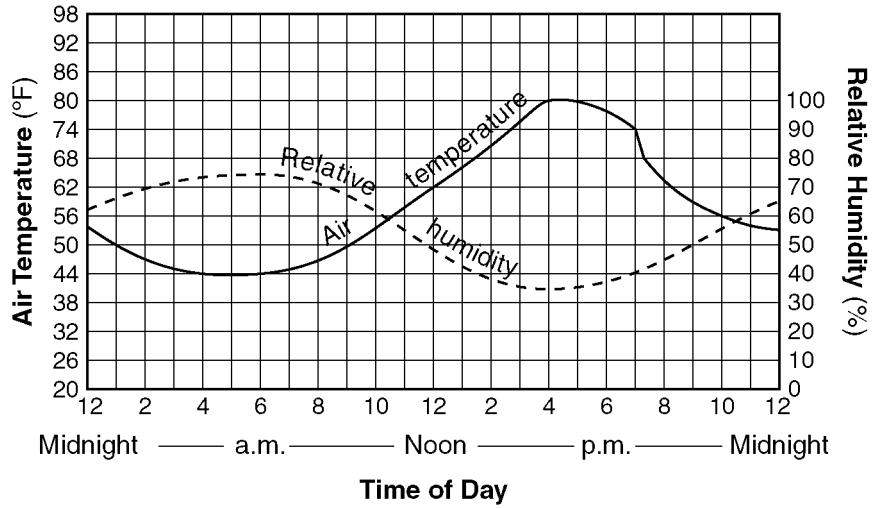
- (1) Plattsburgh (2) Mount Marcy (3) New York City (4) Slide Mountain

40. When the Sun is at position A, which latitude receives the most direct rays of the Sun?

- (1) Tropic of Cancer (23.5° N) (3) Equator (0°)
 (2) Tropic of Capricorn (23.5° S) (4) Antarctic Circle (66.5° S)

41. When the Sun is at the March 21 position, New York State will usually have
- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) longer days than nights | (3) the lowest annual altitude of the Sun at solar noon |
| (2) 12 hours of daylight and 12 hours of darkness | (4) the highest annual altitude of the Sun at solar noon |

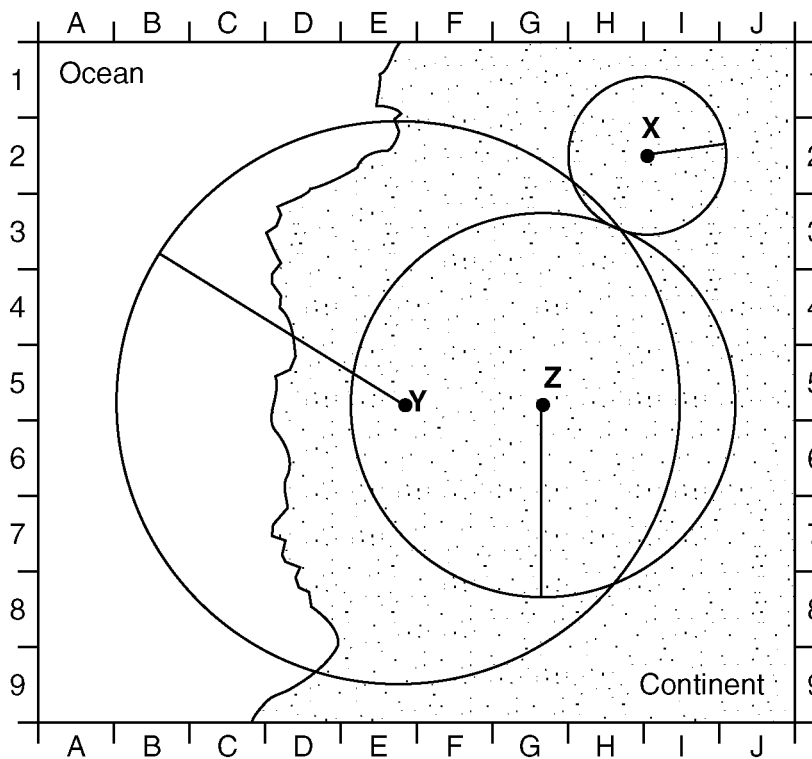
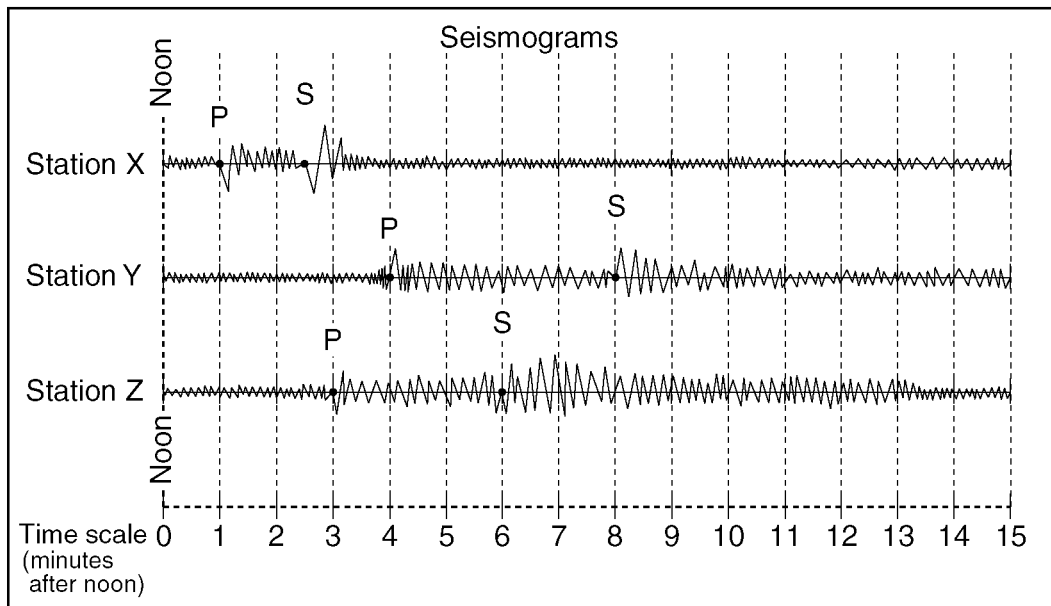
Base your answers to questions **42** and **43** on the graph below. The graph shows air temperature and relative humidity at a single location during a 24-hour period.



42. What was the approximate change in relative humidity from 12 noon to 4 p.m.?
- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| (1) 10% | (2) 15% | (3) 20% | (4) 30% |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
43. At which time would the rate of evaporation most likely be greatest?
- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| (1) 11 p.m. | (2) 6 a.m. | (3) 10 a.m. | (4) 4 p.m. |
|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|

Earth Science Sample Exam

Base your answers to questions 44 through 47 on the diagram and map below. The diagram shows three seismograms of the same earthquake recorded at three different seismic stations, X, Y, and Z. The distances from each seismic station to the earthquake epicenter have been drawn on the map. A coordinate system has been placed on the map to describe locations. The map scale has not been included.

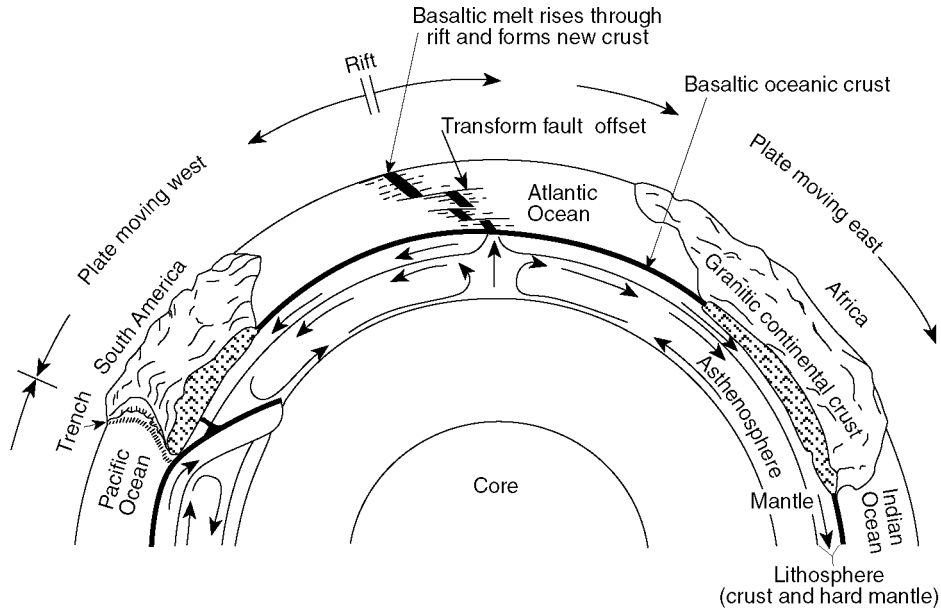


44. Approximately how far away from station Y is the epicenter?
 (1) 1,300 km (2) 2,600 km (3) 3,900 km (4) 5,200 km
45. The S-waves from this earthquake that travel toward Earth's center will
 (1) be deflected by Earth's magnetic field
 (2) be totally reflected off the crust-mantle interface
 (3) be absorbed by the liquid outer core
 (4) reach the other side of Earth faster than those that travel around Earth in the crust

Earth Science Sample Exam

46. Seismic station Z is 1,700 kilometers from the epicenter. Approximately how long did it take the *P*-wave to travel to station Z?
(1) 1 min 50 sec (2) 2 min 50 sec (3) 3 min 30 sec (4) 6 min 30 sec
47. On the map, which location is closest to the epicenter of the earthquake?
(1) E-5 (2) G-1 (3) H-3 (4) H-8
-

Base your answers to questions 48 through 50 on the diagram below. The diagram shows a model of the relationship between Earth's surface and its interior.

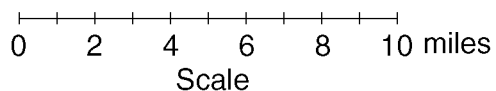
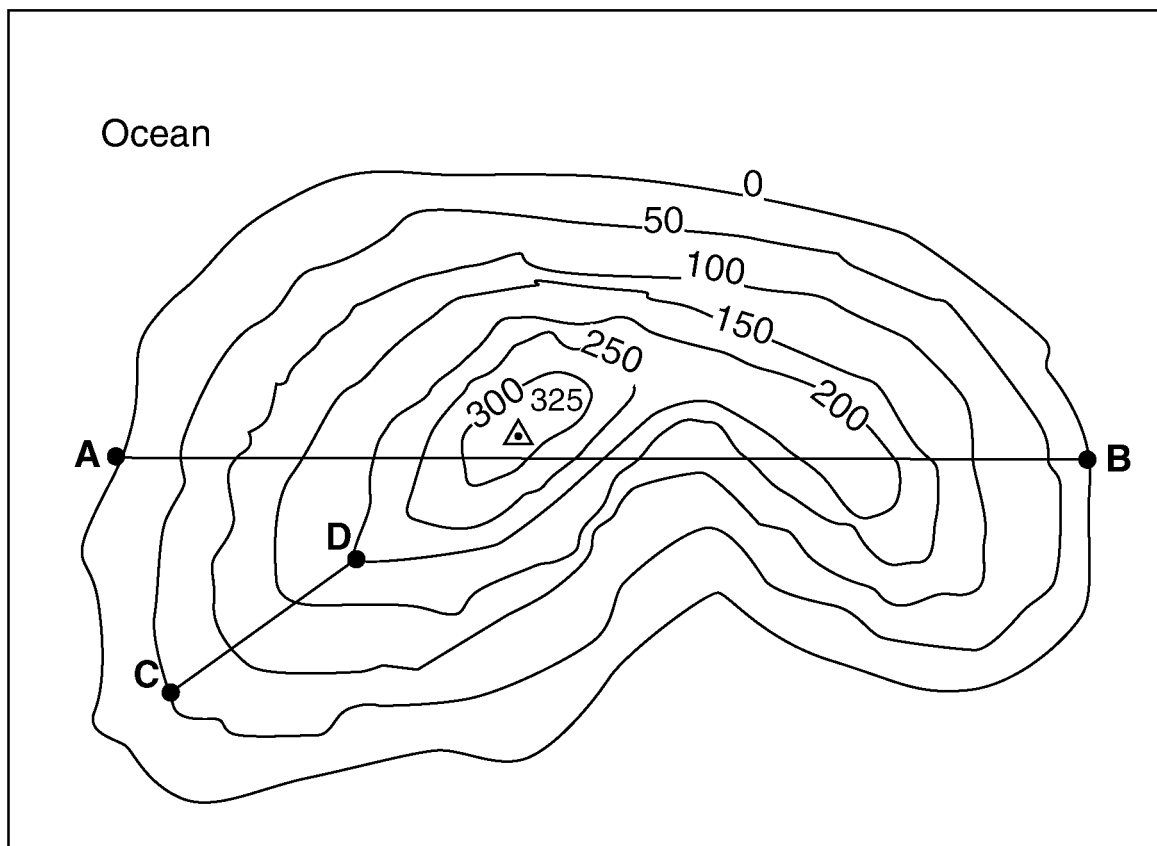


(Not drawn to scale)

48. Mid-ocean ridges (rifts) normally form where tectonic plates are
(1) converging (2) diverging (3) stationary (4) sliding past each other
49. The motion of the convection currents in the mantle beneath the Atlantic Ocean appears to be mainly making this ocean basin
(1) deeper (2) shallower (3) wider (4) narrower
50. According to the diagram, the deep trench along the west coast of South America is caused by movement of the oceanic crust that is
(1) sinking beneath the continental crust (3) sinking at the Mid-Atlantic ridge
(2) uplifting over the continental crust (4) colliding with the Atlantic oceanic crust
-

Earth Science Sample Exam

Base your answers to questions 51 and 52 on the topographic map of an island shown below. Elevations are expressed in feet. Points A, B, C, and D are locations on the island. A triangulation point shows the highest elevation on the island.



51. On the grid provided above, construct a topographic profile representing the cross-sectional view between point A and point B, following the directions below.

a Plot the elevation of the land along line AB by marking, with a dot, the elevation of *each* point where a contour line is crossed by line AB.

b Connect the dots with a smooth, curved line to complete the topographic profile.

52. What is the average gradient, in feet per mile, along the straight line from point *C* to point *D*? _____ft/mi

53. The photograph below shows an impact crater approximately 1 mile wide located in Diablo Canyon, Arizona. Describe the event that produced this crater.

Barringer Crater, Arizona, U.S.A. (photo courtesy of NASA)



54. A weather station records the following data:

Air pressure is 1,001.0 millibars.

Wind is from the south.

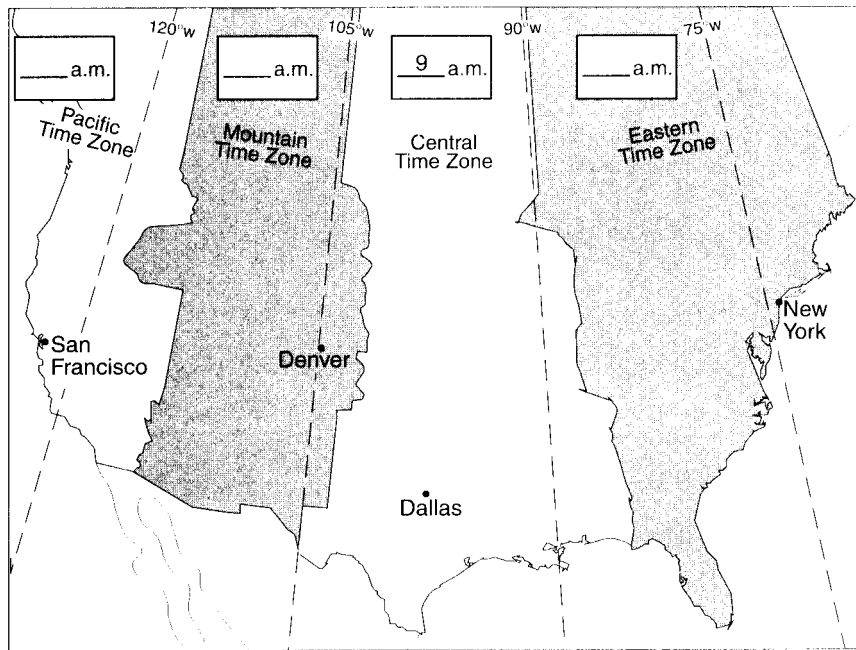
Wind speed is 25 knots.



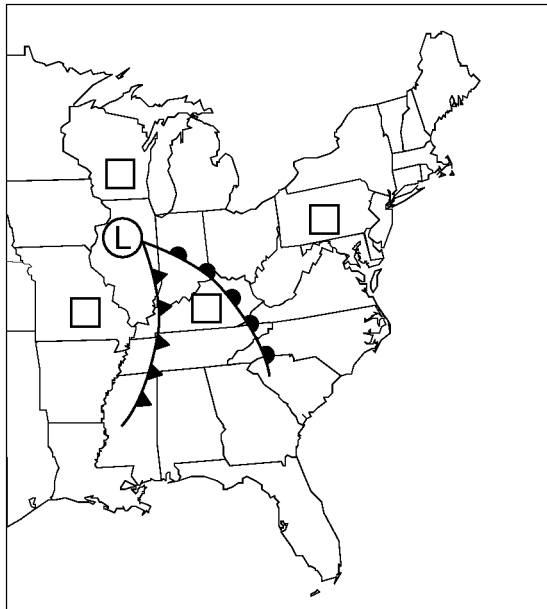
Using the proper weather map symbols, place this information in the correct locations on the weather station model provided above.

Earth Science Sample Exam

55. On the United States time zone map provided below, indicate the standard time in *each* time zone when it is 9 a.m. in the Central Time Zone. The dashed lines represent the standard-time meridians for each time zone. Be sure to indicate the time for all *three* zones.



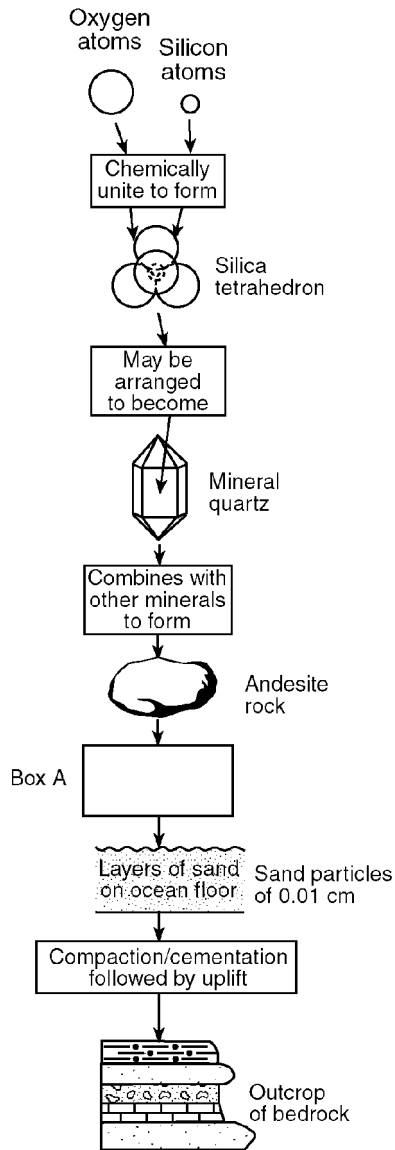
56. The weather map below shows a typical midlatitude low-pressure system centered in Illinois.



a On the weather map provided above, indicate which boxed area has the highest surface air temperatures by marking an **X** in one of the four boxes on the map.

b On the weather map provided above, draw an arrow to predict the normal storm track that this low-pressure center would be expected to follow.

Base your answers to questions 57 through 59 on the flowchart below, which shows a sequence of geologic processes at or near Earth's surface. Box A has been deliberately left blank. The diagrams are not drawn to scale.



57. Identify the *three* minerals that are normally found with quartz in samples of andesite rock.

58. State one geologic process represented by box A.

59. Identify by name one type of rock layer, other than sandstone, shown in the outcrop.

60. A family wants to use rock materials as flooring in the entrance of their new house. They have narrowed their choice to granite or marble. Which of these rocks is more resistant to the physical wear of foot traffic and explain why this rock is more resistant.

Base your answers to questions 61 and 62 on the newspaper article below

Ancient Human Footprints Found

PARIS — In the darkness of an underground cave lined with prehistoric paintings, French scientists believe they have discovered the oldest footprints of humans in Europe.

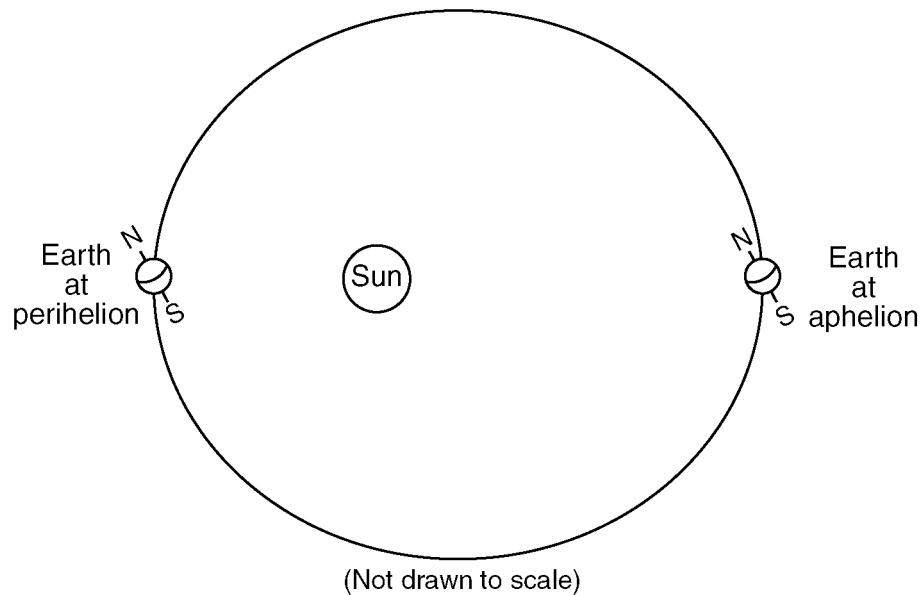
Embedded in damp clay, the imprints, slightly more than 8 inches long, appear to be those of a boy, 8 or 10 years old, who was walking barefoot between 25,000 and 30,000 years ago, prehistorians said Wednesday.

They said the dates are only hypothetical because there is no precise way to determine when the markings were made. But Michel-Andre Garcia, one prehistorian who has studied the site, said that the carbon datings in the cave and the context make this “a very strong hypothesis.” The four footprints were found in the Ardeche region of southern France, deep inside the Chauvet cave.

— *Times Union*, June 10, 1999

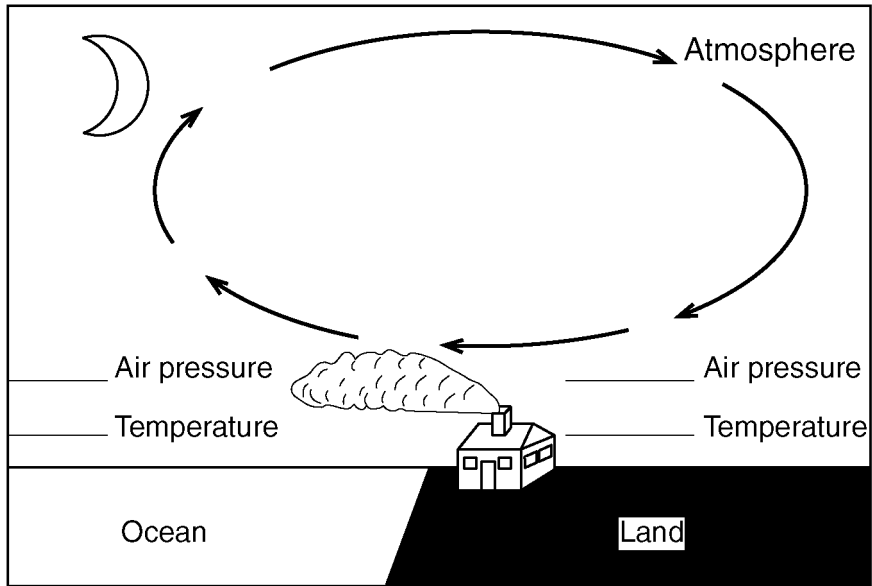
61. Scientists have inferred that these “oldest” European human footprints were made during which geologic epoch?
62. Which characteristic of the radioactive isotope carbon-14 explains why carbon-14, rather than the radioactive isotope uranium-238, was used by archeologists in dating the age of their findings?

Base your answers to questions 63 through 66 on the diagram below, which represents an exaggerated model of Earth’s orbital shape. Earth is closest to the Sun at one time of year (perihelion) and farthest from the Sun at another time of year (aphelion).



63. State the actual geometric shape of Earth’s orbit.
64. Identify the season in the Northern Hemisphere when Earth is at perihelion.
65. Describe the change that takes place in the apparent size of the Sun, as viewed from Earth, as Earth moves from perihelion to aphelion.
66. State the relationship between Earth’s distance from the Sun and Earth’s orbital velocity.

67. Base your answer to the following question on the cross section provided below, which represents a house at an ocean shoreline at night. Smoke from the chimney is blowing out to sea.



- a* Label the *two* lines provided on the cross section above to show where air pressure is relatively “high” and where it is relatively “low.”
- b* Assume that the wind blowing out to sea on this night is caused by local air-temperature conditions. Label the *two* lines provided on the cross section above to show where Earth’s surface air temperature is relatively “warm” and where it is relatively “cool.”


Earth Science Sample Exam

Base your answers to questions 68 through 70 on data tables I and II and on the Hurricane Tracking Map below. Table I represents the storm track data for an Atlantic hurricane. Location, wind velocity, air pressure, and storm strength are shown for the storm's center at 3 p.m. Greenwich time each day. Table II shows a scale of relative storm strength. The map shows the hurricane's path.

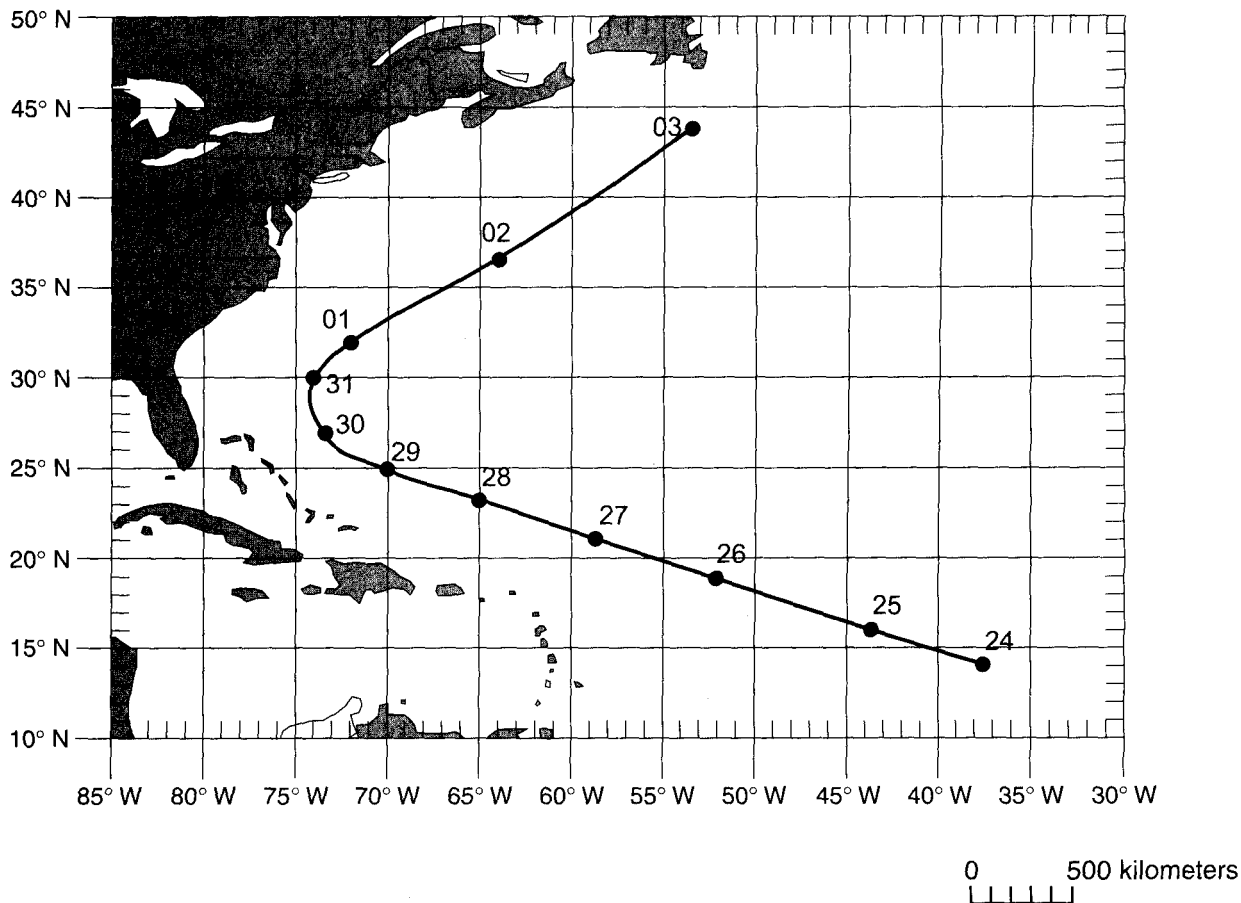
Data Table I

Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°W)	Date	Wind Velocity (knots)	Air Pressure (millibars)	Storm Strength
14	37	Aug. 24	30	1006	Tropical depression
16	44	Aug. 25	70	987	Category-1 hurricane
19	52	Aug. 26	90	970	Category-2 hurricane
21	59	Aug. 27	80	997	Category-1 hurricane
23	65	Aug. 28	80	988	Category-1 hurricane
25	70	Aug. 29	80	988	Category-1 hurricane
27	73	Aug. 30	65	988	Category-1 hurricane
30	74	Aug. 31	85	976	Category-2 hurricane
32	72	Sept. 01	85	968	Category-2 hurricane
37	64	Sept. 02	70	975	Category-1 hurricane
44	53	Sept. 03	65	955	Category-1 hurricane

Data Table II

Storm Strength Scale	Relative Strength
Tropical depression	Weakest
Tropical storm	
Category 1	
Category 2	
Category 3	
Category 4	
Category 5	Strongest

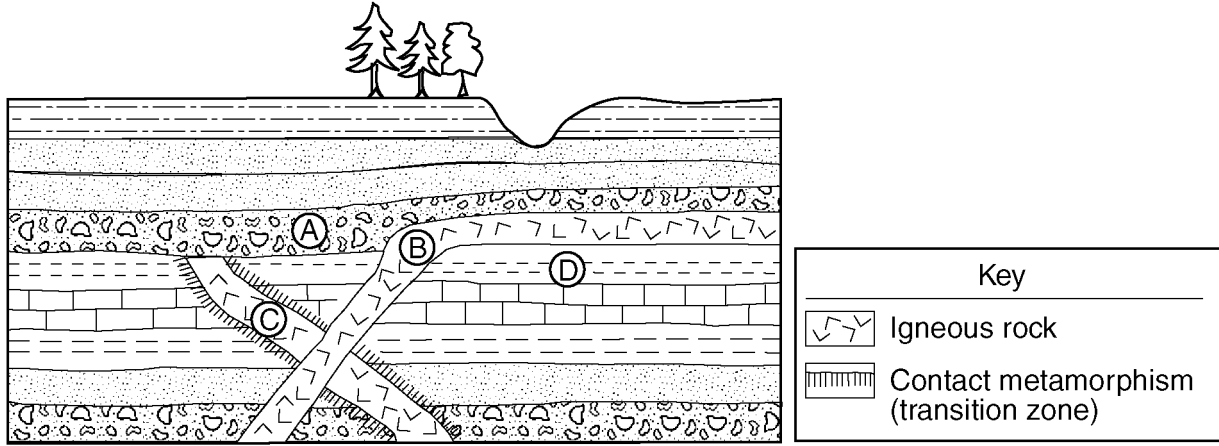
Hurricane Tracking Map



68. Describe *two* characteristics of the circulation pattern of the surface winds around the center (eye) of a Northern Hemisphere low-pressure hurricane.
69. The hurricane did not continue moving toward the same compass direction during the entire period shown by the data table. Explain why the hurricane changed direction.

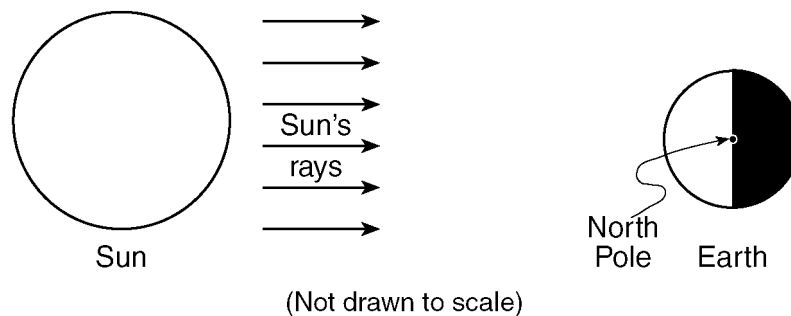
70. Calculate the average daily rate of movement of the hurricane during the period from 3 p.m. August 24 to 3 p.m. August 28. The hurricane traveled 2,600 kilometers during this 4-day period. Follow the directions given below.
- Write the equation used to determine the rate of change.
 - Substitute data into the equation.
 - Calculate the rate and label it with the proper units.

Base your answers to questions 71 through 73 on the cross section provided in your answer booklet. The cross section represents a portion of Earth's crust. Letters A, B, C, and D are rock units.



71. Igneous rock *B* was formed after rock layer *D* was deposited but before rock layer *A* was deposited. Using the contact metamorphism symbol shown in the key, draw that symbol in the proper locations on the cross section provided above to indicate those rocks that underwent contact metamorphism when igneous rock *B* was molten.
72. In relation to rock units *A* and *B* in the cross section, when was igneous rock *C* formed?
73. Describe one observable characteristic of rock *A* that indicates that rock *A* is sedimentary.

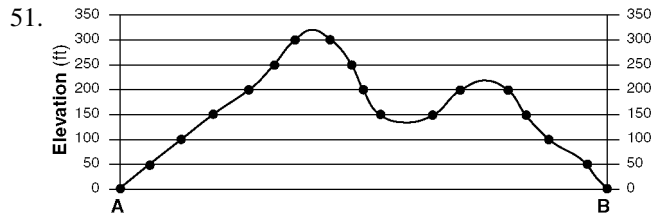
74. The diagram provided below represents the Sun and Earth as viewed from space on a certain date.
- Using a symbol for the Moon of approximately the size of a dime, draw the position of the Moon on the diagram provided above at the time when the full Moon phase is observed from Earth.
 - Draw an arrow on the diagram provided above that shows the Earth motion that causes surface ocean currents and surface winds to curve (Coriolis effect).



Answer Key

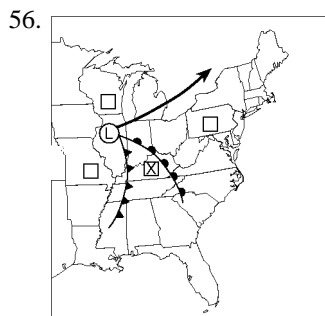
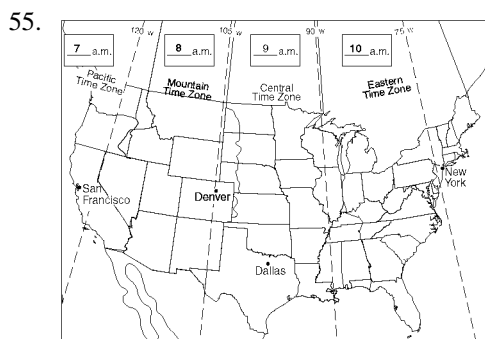
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47. 3
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49. 3
50. 1



52. 25 ft/mi (± 1).
53. *example:* Barringer Crater was caused by the impact of a meteorite (or meteor or comet or asteroid).
- 54.

Answer Key



57. plagioclase feldspar, biotite, and amphibole.

58. *examples:* – weathering – erosion – deposition

59. siltstone or conglomerate or limestone.

60. Granite because granite is composed mainly of quartz and feldspar that are resistant to abrasion because of their hardness (7 and 6, respectively), while marble is made of calcite, which is softer (hardness of 3).

61. Pleistocene epoch.

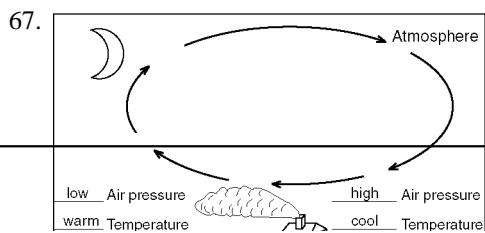
62. *examples:* – The half-life of radioactive carbon is shorter. – Radioactive carbon-14 is found in recent organic remains.

63. *examples:* ellipse – oval – elliptical with the Sun at one focus

64. *examples:* early winter – winter

65. *examples:* – As Earth moves from perihelion to aphelion, the apparent size decreases. – The Sun appears smaller.

66. *examples:* – As Earth moves from perihelion to aphelion, the orbital velocity decreases. – As distance of Earth from the Sun increases, orbital velocity decreases. – an inverse relationship



68. counterclockwise and spirals toward the eye

69. *examples:* – The storm entered the prevailing southwesterly wind belt north of 30° N, which pushed it to the northeast. – The hurricane moved into a different wind belt.

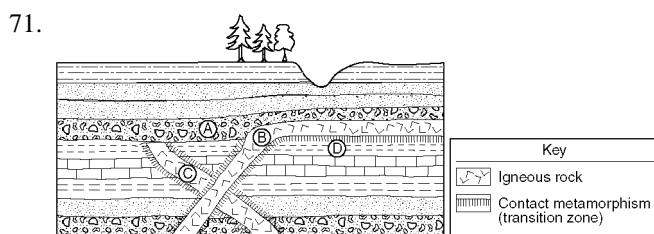
70. rate of change = $\frac{\text{Distance}}{\text{Time}}$

rate of change = $\frac{2,600 \text{ km}}{4 \text{ days}}$

$r = \frac{2,600 \text{ km}}{96 \text{ hr}}$

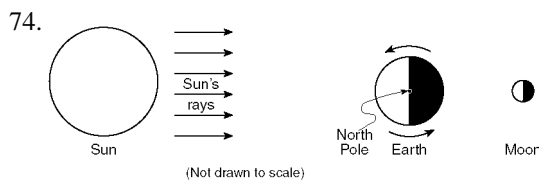
rate of change = $650 \frac{\text{km}}{\text{day}}$

$r = 27 \text{ km/hr}$



72. *examples:* – C was formed before both B and A. – C is older than both B and A.

73. *examples:* – Rock A is a mixture of rounded rock fragments of different sizes connected together. – Rock A is a horizontal layer.



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Earth Science Sample Exam

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