

Assessment

Standardized Test Preparation

Read each of the passages below. Then, answer the questions that follow each passage.

Passage 1 Astronomers were studying the motions of galaxies in space when they noticed something odd. They thought that the large gravitational force, which causes the galaxies to rotate rapidly, was due to a large amount of mass in the galaxies. Then, they discovered that the mass of the galaxies was not great enough to explain this large gravitational force. So, what was causing the additional gravitational force? One theory is that the universe contains matter that we cannot see with our eyes or our telescopes. Astronomers call this invisible matter dark matter.

- _____ 1. According to this passage, what did astronomers originally think caused the rotation of the galaxies?
- A a lack of inertia
 - B a large gravitational force
 - C a small amount of mass in the galaxies
 - D a small gravitational force
- _____ 2. Why do you think astronomers use the term *dark matter*?
- F Dark matter refers to dark objects.
 - G Dark matter refers to matter that we can't see.
 - H You need a telescope to see dark matter.
 - I All large objects are dark.
- _____ 3. Which statement is the best summary of the passage?
- A The enormous amount of mass in the galaxies explains why the galaxies rotate.
 - B Dark matter may be responsible for the gravitational force that causes the rotation of galaxies.
 - C Invisible matter is called dark matter.
 - D Galaxies rotate as they move through the universe.