Document C

NOTE: This document is based on a diagram. I will describe the diagram to you. Please do your best to answer the questions based on the description and document text.

Source: Drawings of the universe by Claudius Ptolemy (circa 100 CE) and Nicolaus Copernicus

(circa 1500).

Note: Ptolemy (tol-eh-mee) was a Roman astronomer who lived in Alexandria, Egypt, shortly after the time of Jesus. He developed a theory of the universe that was adopted by most scholars during the Middle Ages. The Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus lived from 1473 to 1543. Relying mostly on mathematics and observation, he developed a different understanding of the universe. Geocentric means "earth-centered" and heliocentric means “sun-centered."

Diagram descriptions:

Ptolemy’s diagram of the universe is “geocentric” meaning the earth is at the center of the universe and everything else revolves around the earth.

Nicolaus Copernicus diagram shows the sun at the center of the universe while everything else revolves around the sun.

Document Analysis

1. According to Ptolemy's diagram, how does the universe work? Where is the sun (solis) in his diagram?

2. According to Copernicus's diagram, how does the universe work?

3. The ideas of Copernicus were upsetting to the Catholic Church. What might explain this?

4. Which drawing of the universe has a habitation or home for God, the deity?

5. How might the ideas of Copernicus have changed the way people thought about the nature of man and man's place in the universe?