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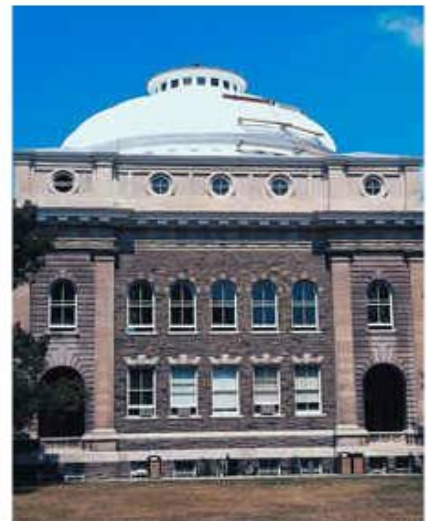
Inference questions require you to draw conclusions based on information provided in the text. Correct inferences are based on the facts mentioned in the passage. Following are examples of common inference questions found on the test. Note that the words *infer* or *imply* indicate that the question is an inference question—but not all inference questions use these words.



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How Inference Questions Work

- Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph ____?
- Paragraph ____ suggests that . . .
- The information in paragraph ____ implies that . . .
- Which of the following statements does the author imply?
- Which of the following would be the most likely to occur?
- What does the author imply about . . .
- The author suggests that . . .
- It is probable that . . .
- It can be concluded from the passage that . . .

Read the sample passage and inference question below, and try to answer the question. Then study the explanation given for the correct answer.

Sample

A *paradigm shift* occurs when the majority of scientists in a field agree that a new theory is better than the one currently in use. In the second century AD, Greek astronomer Ptolemy proposed that Earth was the center of the universe. He and other scientists made extensive mathematical calculations that explained the movements of the known planets based on his hypothesis. This became a widely accepted scientific theory that lasted for 1,400 years. But in 1543 Nicolaus Copernicus proposed that the sun was the center of our solar system and showed that this new hypothesis explained the planetary movements better than the Ptolemaic theory. This sun-centered view has been a widely accepted theory for more than 460 years.

Which of the following does the author imply?

- ☐ Scientific theories are usually based on direct observations.
- ☒ Copernicus's theory represents a paradigm shift.
- ☐ Ptolemy's theory was not widely accepted at first.
- ☐ Theories about planetary movements have improved since Copernicus's time.

Explanation of Answer

The passage presents and defines the term *paradigm shift*. The author follows it up with an example--Ptolemy's hypothesis is replaced with Copernicus's. Although the example is not specifically described as a paradigm shift, the author clearly implies that it is. The first choice is too general and is not implied in the passage. The third choice is false. The fourth choice may be a true statement, but it is not implied in the passage.