



**FOCUS:** Answering inference questions based on passages.

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**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage and the inference questions that follow. Mark the choice that best answers each question.

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### Astrology and Astronomy



## Reading &gt; Lesson 3: Inference Questions &gt; Exercise 3.2

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage and the inference questions that follow. Mark the choice that best answers each question.

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1 It can be inferred that the author believes astrology

- ☐ is a term that cannot be defined
- ☐ is not a true science
- ☐ includes more than just the positions of stars and planets
- ☐ is not in the same realm as belief in UFOs



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## 2 The author implies that astrology

- ☐ should not be ignored as a scientific discipline
- ☐ is incorrectly associated with attempts to correlate heavenly phenomena with earthly affairs
- ☐ is concerned with correlating natural and supernatural phenomenon
- ☐ should not be taught in astronomy courses



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3 The author implies that astrology and astronomy

- ☐ both rely on assumptions
- ☐ both require extensive training
- ☐ are different but equally valid
- ☐ are mistakenly connected



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- 4 From the information in the passage, it can be inferred that
- ☐ astrology's popularity is decreasing
  - ☐ millions of people take astrology seriously
  - ☐ Americans have their own form of astrology
  - ☐ astrology relies in part on statistics



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5 The author suggests that astrological predictions are

- ☐ often made by people who do not truly believe them
- ☐ influenced by the personality of the person making them
- ☐ more accurate than critics admit
- ☐ actually chance occurrences



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6 An implied argument against the validity of astrology is that

- ☐ the alignment of astrological signs changes over time
- ☐ the position of the stars cannot be measured with perfect accuracy
- ☐ the events it predicts do not always occur
- ☐ astrologers do not have formal training



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7 The author probably believes that

- ☐ astronomy is one of the most important scientific disciplines
- ☐ astrology is harmless fun
- ☐ astrology is keeping many of the world's greatest problems from being solved
- ☐ astronomy deserves more recognition for its contributions to society



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8 The author implies that scientists believe that

- ☐ some day they will better understand the way the brain works
- ☐ the alignment of the stars and planets cannot affect human personalities
- ☐ the celestial forces that act on the stars and planets can also affect living beings
- ☐ the human brain cannot possibly understand all the forces at work in nature



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--believe in astrology as being more than just a source of amusement. Indeed, the topic is too widespread to ignore.

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In truth, stars' positions overhead have changed compared to those calculated millennia ago, when some astrological tables still in use were computed. At a given time of year, the sun is actually in a different sign of the zodiac (the

tables still in use were computed. At a given time of year, the sun is actually in a different sign of the zodiac (the twelve constellations named for the astrological signs) than that assigned by traditional astrology. The research confirming these inaccuracies does more than highlight astrology's shortcomings. Studies have shown that superstition actively constricts the progress of science and technology in various countries around the world and is therefore not merely an innocent force. It is not just that some people harmlessly believe in astrology; their lack of understanding of scientific structure actually impedes the training or work people need to solve the problems of our age, such as pollution, food shortages, and the energy crisis.

In addition to the lack of evidence corroborating astrological predictions, one reason why scientists in general, and astronomers in particular, doubt the validity of astrology is that they cannot conceive of a way in which it could possibly work. The human brain is so complex that it seems improbable that any celestial alignment could affect the thoughts and actions of people, including newborns, in an overall way. The celestial forces that are known cannot

work. The human brain is so complex that it seems improbable that any celestial alignment could affect the thoughts and actions of people, including newborns, in an overall way. The celestial forces that are known cannot realistically be said to determine personalities or influence daily events. Any unknown force must have truly remarkable properties to exert a noticeable effect on humans--and the question is: Who can pretend to know that force?