

(1) When is the earth closest to the sun?

- (A) At the summer solstice.
- (B) At the June solstice.
- (C) At the December solstice
- (D) In early July.
- (E) In early January.

(2) By how much does the earth's distance from the sun vary over the course of the year?

- (A) About 93,000,000 miles (about 100% of the average distance between earth and sun)
- (B) About 9,000,000 miles (about 10% of the average)
- (C) About 3 million miles (about 3% of the average)
- (D) About 8,000 miles (about the diameter of the earth, or 0.001% of the average distance)

(3) Which of the items below is ***not*** a possible explanation for why insolation at a particular place on the earth's surface might vary with time?

- (A) The output of the sun varies.
- (B) The distance between the earth and sun varies.
- (C) The sun angle varies (so the distance that solar radiation travels through the atmosphere varies).
- (D) The sun angle varies (so the degree of “spreading out” on the earth's surface varies).
- (E) The albedo of the surface varies.