**Astrophysics Quiz No. 23: Let’s Review the Parameters of Planetary Orbits**

1. Where are the fastest planets?
2. Closer to the Sun
3. Farther from the Sun
4. What are most of the bodies beyond Neptune called?
5. Asteroids
6. Comets
7. Minor planets
8. Kuiper belt objects (KBOs)
9. Most spin and orbital vectors in the solar system \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
10. Oppose each other.
11. Align with each other.
12. Do orbits of the planets have precession over time where their elliptical orientation concerning the Sun changes?
13. Yes
14. No
15. What types of bodies have both highly elliptical and inclined orbits?
a. Regular moons
b. Asteroids
16. Irregular moons
17. Outer comets
18. Kuiper belt objects (KBOs)
19. What is the most current and likely answer that academia has for the cause of inclined orbits?
20. Possible collisions between bodies.
21. Disturbance of comets found in the Oort Cloud.
22. Possible capture from interstellar space.
23. Different ecliptic plane of a sister star orbiting the Sun
24. Slight changes (perturbations) in planetary orbits are caused by the gravitational attraction of thousands of conjunctions between the planets in relatively short periods as is known by computer studies using gravitational theory. So why do the orbits stay reasonably constant over millions and billions of years thereby assuring our existence?
a. The reasons are unknown; applied computerized gravitational theory creates chaos rather quickly.

b. Perhaps electromagnetic forces maintain closely enough and keep in balance the planet’s orbits over extremely long periods. However, academia currently does not recognize these mysterious forces causing the clockwork of our solar system.

**Answers: 1. a; 2. d; 3. b; 4. a; 5. c, d, and e; 6. b; 7. a and b.**